

## “Slender Wrinkled Fingers”

Chelsea Julian Reynolds

**“Oh quickly disappearing photograph, in my more slowly  
disappearing hand”**

-Rainer Maria Rilke

*(From Portrait of My Father as Young Man)*

slender wrinkled fingers  
fumble through  
a faded balsa crate  
labeled free.

rumpled photographs of  
dismal Victorian faces,  
somber and frowning in  
makeshift mahogany coffins.  
their empty eyes refuse  
the gaze of her own  
emptying eyes.

the box is shoved aside,  
her attention forced to  
less delicate finds:  
mohair afghans, unbound books,  
antique postcards  
marked ten cents each.