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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Coleman Hough: Two Poems

Coleman Hough · Wednesday, January 14th, 2015

Coleman Hough is a poet, playwright, and screenwriter. Her screen credits include *Bubble* and *Full Frontal*, both directed by Steven Soderbergh. Her plays have been produced in Los Angeles at Theatre of N.O.T.E. and Padua Playwrights. She has performed her monologues in NYC and LA. Her poems have appeared in *Southern Poetry Review*, *The Louisville Review*, and *The Brooklyn Rail*. She currently resides in Santa Monica, CA and is writing/producing the film, *Walking into Walls*, her personal documentary about living with Parkinson's disease while pursuing a creative life.

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### Orange

An orange  
is orange  
because  
it's born that way  
grows up in a tree  
sucking the veins  
of its mother  
until it falls  
to the ground  
saved by the roundness  
that keeps it whole.

But let me tell you  
the skin  
of an orange  
is not to be trusted  
it sweats  
in your palm  
like a guard  
being bribed  
wants to be broken  
touched inside  
where it's deep

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and perfect.

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## Before Sleep

Before sleep  
mother would fly in  
land at the edge of my bed  
stiff in her evening clothes  
her skin cool  
tight against my cheek  
as if she were custard  
chilled in a china cup.

She would press her fragrant face  
on one side or another  
of my neck  
just behind my hair  
lean in to whisper  
brownish tastes on her tongue  
exotic  
not my mother at all  
but the weight of her  
the sudden flight  
perfuming the darkness that followed her out.

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