



Volume 13
Issue 1
2018

Blue Johnnies

Jennifer Markell

The woman beside me opens a vial
of dirt scraped from Chimayo,
sacred ground she rubs between her palms.
She tells me her mother hung crutches

from an altar, but here we sit
with clipboards in our laps, awaiting
the radiologist's word, wondering
how misfortune will divide,
if our names will be written
in the clean margins.

As girls we drew straws and chanted
the luck of rock, paper, scissors,
pulled brittle wishbones
until they cracked and broke.
Now we hold tight in shivering rooms
where plates of glass slide between worlds.

Jennifer Markell is a
psychotherapist whose
poetry collection
Samsara was awarded
“Must-Read” by the
Massachusetts Book
Awards. Email:
JenniferM7@comcast
.net