



# What Do I Know

Irises and babies have to push their way  
into this world, meringue beats lighter  
in a copper bowl, ants avoid alum,  
and cast iron pans are best for frying fish.  
I know to prune a peach tree, cut a sucker,  
and drop dead from laughter once or twice a year.  
I know it is possible to darn a garment with human hair,  
the stitching so fine you will have trouble finding the tear,  
and my husband will become amorous when I prepare  
his favorite meal. If he should die first, leaving me alone  
with arthritic hands and knees, I won't be able  
to trim the hedges or move the ladder. We will never  
resolve the thorny issue of the second pond.

I know I will miss him; then I won't.



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Jacqueline Tchakalian is a visual artist as well as a poet. She has past experience as co-director of the Valley Contemporary Poets Series and the Los Angeles Poetry Festival. Her poems have appeared in *Eclipse, A Literary Journal*, Fall 2009; *So to Speak*, Winter/Spring 2006; *California Quarterly*, Volume 26, Number 3, 2000; *West/Word 4*, Summer 1991; *Sheila-Na-Gig*, 1991; *Hurricane Alice*, 1991. Her online publications are: *Poets Against War*, June 12, 2003; and *Speechless*, Summer 2004. She was one of ten runner-ups in the 2007 Conflux Press Artist's Book Contest.

