



stranger

CYNTHIA TROUP

Stranger
than plain old strange
stranger takes.
a strained hold on attention
or hand-in-hand feels clammy instead of warm.
Strange how
stranger creates stranger
clouds the sun on faces
the animals go quiet—

Often a distraction flicks into focus as absurd
or inordinately vivid: the hum
of the refrigerator heard at an exact pitch
the dark circle for a jewel on an heirloom brooch
the length of a thumbnail
the jostling blue cubes
in the picture of a Cezanne painting that, strange
must always
have been shimmering like that.