

Imaginary Truths

When I told my friends I was a Dutch princess
hiding from pirates,
they laughed.
Then I brought in wooden shoes.

Sister Margaret said Protestants
didn't have miracles.
I told her I saw the Virgin in the clouds
at recess.

She said if I saw the Virgin again
I'd have to turn Catholic.
I said it was a clown instead.

My boss made me stay
I missed the bus
there was a lot of traffic
those cigarettes weren't mine.
My father stood at the window, pipe smoke
roiling.

The night of the party
you had a game, so I went with Bill
instead.
I told you the grass stains were old.

My clogs got caught on the accelerator.

I told my boss I didn't want vacation,
then you asked me to go to Rio. The flood story
seemed like a good idea. On the beach at Ipanema,
I lost my virginity
and my job.

They thought dancing with them meant
we'd sleep with them, so we said
we were gay and kissed each other.
We agreed not to like it.