

A Certain Kind of Eden

by Kay Ryan

It seems like you could, but
you can't go back and pull
the roots and runners and replant.

It's all too deep for that.

You've overprized intention,
have mistaken any bent you're given
for control. You thought you chose
the bean and chose the soil.

You even thought you abandoned
one or two gardens. But those things
keep growing where we put them—
if we put them at all.

A certain kind of Eden holds us thrall.
Even the one vine that tendrils out alone
in time turns on its own impulse,
twisting back down its upward course
a strong and then a stronger rope,
the greenest saddest strongest
kind of hope.