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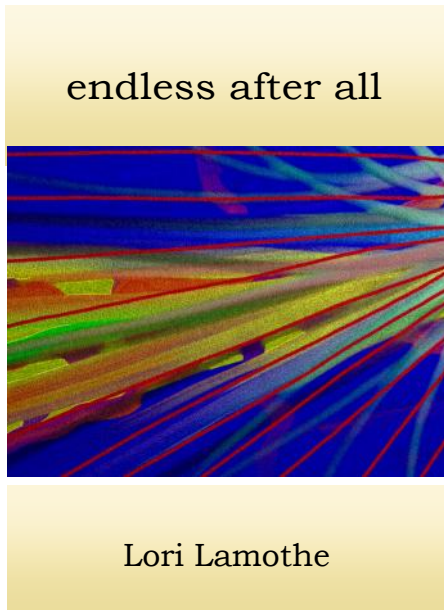
Cover: *Unearthly Lights*  
by Lauri Burke

**Origami Poetry Project™**

endless after all  
Lori Lamothe © 2016

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Recycle this micro-chapbook  
with a friend.



### The Blue Earrings

For months I've kept the universe  
in a box. It happens.

I get tired of infinity  
with its sapphire eyes

staring out at me  
from behind mirrors.

But today when I slip on  
all that sea, that sky

everything immense  
seems a little

lighter, as if nature  
isn't so in-your-face

There's something antique about them—  
the way they cluster together at edges of field,  
willow, white trunks  
standing not quite straight  
like tall girls at a high school dance.  
Of course they're beautiful, dressed  
as they are in September. All day  
they rustle the sort of answers teachers like—  
a short, sweet music of compliance.  
All day they bend under the wind's instruction,  
their yellow leaves lifting and turning  
until they dissolve into sky—  
frailly a series of notes on a recorder,  
a tune anyone could play.

*after Gustav Klimt*

**Birch Forest, 1903**

endless after all—  
or maybe I've just gotten

used to the idea of  
this big wavering life

being so damn brief.

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Even the name sounds silly—  
as if they're the kind of creatures  
you'd find in *Whoville*  
or maybe at the bottom  
of a cereal box. No brains,  
no nerves, no bones,  
almost nothing but water  
and veils that haunt  
surfaces of absence—  
bodies guileless, lives  
rocked by tides  
singing old equations.

**Moon Jellies**

The ghosts of their shadows  
drift over muddy graves  
of dinosaurs and saber-  
toothed tigers, pterodactyls  
and woolly mammoths—  
the sum of survival  
caught in a translucence of bells,  
a net of whole notes  
rippling across forever  
from cathedrals of light.

It's only at night, when the moon  
comes to wash landscape in absence,  
that they step out of ordinary.  
Striped of the sun's too-strong light,  
they gleam in darkness, the world  
a dance of secrets, a dreaming of fugues,  
a luminous calculus of possibilities.

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