

transplanted rose
- by Alexandra Lee (June 11, 2025)

transplanted rose
yellowing leaves
black spots bruising fragile leaf
saving up for one precious bloom

one sunny afternoon
sitting with my son,
long stems of limbs
dangling over my lap,
I asked him,
should I just dig up this
sick rose?

he looked thoughtfully
through the petals of his eyelashes
opened his rosebud mouth
keep it,
he told me,
keep helping it
help it grow and heal

and through misty eyes
I kissed the tangled shoots of his hair
wrapped my arms around
the bouquet of elbows and knees
taking in his youthful fragrance,
sun-kissed, grass-stained,
and promised
I would