

## Encounter

William Ogden Haynes

We sit dangle-legged on the dock, our orange slices  
splayed like starfish on paper plates, glasses of white

wine sweat on the decking. A monarch butterfly  
floats down and lands on the lip of your plate. You

squeeze an orange section and the butterfly moves  
its wings up and down in slow motion as it drinks

the juice. After a while, we think the creature is  
ours alone, until it suddenly rises like a balloon

whose string our fingers have inadvertently let  
slip away. We hold up our hands as visors,

watching the orange wings beat through the twisted  
architecture of trees, flying toward a sweet slice of sky.

William Ogden Haynes is a poet and author of short fiction from Alabama who was born in Michigan. He has published seven collections of poetry (*Points of Interest*, *Uncommon Pursuits*, *Remnants*, *Stories in Stained Glass*, *Carvings*, *Going South* and *Contemplations*) and one book of short stories (*Youthful Indiscretions*) all available on Amazon.com. Over 200 of his poems and short stories have appeared in literary journals and his work is frequently anthologized.

<http://www.williamogdenhaynes.com>