

MARTHA MIHALYI

Prayer on Leaving

for John Levy

suppose a man begins
travelling to his mother
who is growing blind.

as the plane lifts away
no one is there to see him off

and he only imagines the handkerchief
waving smaller and smaller.

somewhere a woman
anonymous as a field
is wishing flowers beneath him

like a sea of braille
everywhere
he touches down.

suppose while flying alone
he learns of this, the news rising
unexpected as birds startled
from brush filling his eyes
with a pure and sudden gladness.