

The Flower You Know

David Atwood

Lily knew the name of every flower in the yard
whether volunteer or planted by her own hand -
at every house in every town wherever she took root.

She knew. How to raise things from nothing.
When it needed water or to be cajoled into the sun
or God forbid, when time to prune the crispy leaves.

She knew. Sometimes a flower could have two names.
Like Cape Jasmine and Gardenia. They are the same.
But, we only ever called her Mama.