

Positive Result

There is too much of life to die. It is heard
in the trembling voices of the birds, skittering
from twig to fragile twig, just beyond the reach
of the fox kits, who chase the squirrels
as if in some joyful romp.

The squirrels are not fooled by the silly antics
of the kits. They know that with each nip
life grows shorter - just as she knows
by the test's positive result,
positive it is not.

But what else is there for the squirrels to do
except gather nuts for the coming fall
while she pulls beans from the garden, to pile up
until every shelf in the fridge spills green, thinking
of the days to come that she won't see and the tomatoes
slowly ripening on the vine, that she won't eat.

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