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HYPOESTES PHYLLOSTACHYA

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HYPOESTES PHYLLOSTACHYA

“Don’t give them too much,”
mother advises. I gladly
flood the 4-inch pots
each morning, the livelihood
of freckled leaves
in my hands. I lean
toward the warm windowsill
and aim for the roots.

I grabbed for your hand too soon,
I realize. If only I had waited,
given you enough time
to take hold on your own.
Now you know my palm was open
and I would rather drown my plants
than watch them shrivel
for a lack of care.

Lauren Mallett, 2010