

Fragility

Zoe Zhang

玉, *yu*—the green crystal so highly cherished

Fingertip to fingertip

A gentle caressing

Ebbing along like the very riverbanks that nurtured you

How long until the water overflows?

女, *nu*—a young woman,

Shaped by the delicate pursing of the lips,

Careful!

Don't touch her or she might crack,

The small crevices etched across—is it so masochistic to want more?

运, *yun*—luck, or perhaps to be transported away

How can you fill fortune's empty void

when it's in a house not a home,

Balanced on the very shifting sands meant to swallow and carry me

Away?

想, *xiang*—wants and desires

As I wish on the precious 玉

A genesis for my feeble mind

Capable of conceiving the wildest thoughts

Yet confined by the very entities it studies—

Shattered!

Maybe now it could bring my eternal 福—*blessings*

But it's not so lucky when I break.