

# The New Criterion

Poems May 2021

## The reader

by Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody

Irregular  
as clockwork, she  
decamps to track  
her square of sun  
as it's displaced,  
altered, transformed  
in the black oak's  
trestled shadow.

She does not read  
ahead, or try  
surmising how  
the lines will change;  
the seasons move  
her less, perhaps,  
than the spent hour,  
the change in time,

the unpredictable  
point from which  
the sun decides  
its daily loft  
into the air  
until it is caught  
in the black oak,  
and dangles there.

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**Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody's** latest translation is *The Idea of Perfection: The Poetry and Prose of Paul Valéry* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

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