

## Tansy

*Tanacetum vulgare*

ASTER FAMILY

4'. Many tiny, button-like yellow flowers  
in dense clusters; rays minute, barely visible  
around large disk. Leaves dark green, fern-like,  
tripinnately compound; aromatic when crushed.

CAUTION Poisonous. BLOOMS Aug.–Sept.

HABITAT Roadsides, ditches, pastures.

*You*  
*did*  
*not*  
*injure*  
*me.*

===

Thrumming on the street just beside where  
I am trapped multiphasic, multifocal,  
multi-bound to the slap of ash in air.

The fire cannot jump this road—  
until the fire jumps this road.

My answer is left off the static page.  
Is spread, barely visible pulling energy  
to its heart. *You* placed the paper on the embers

with an ease that *did not* cease until  
the show was over. Smoke rose. False snow

blurs edges between solid and immaterial,  
somewhere between *injure*  
and nurture. You keep on leaving your mark.

Whorl me, disintegrate me, crumble *me* up.  
Take me in your mouth. I taste rich.

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