How to Grow Tulips

by Callie Dean

This poem originally appeared at Coffee + Crumbs, March 5, 2024: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/XeC3ckksG86WePgo/.

If you wait until your neighbor's tulips blaze with reds and yellows

you're too late.

The time to think about planting tulips was half a year ago when the sun shone golden and a chill glazed the air: a foretaste of the coming winter.

Once you bury the bulbs deep within the earth, it's best if you forget about them so you won't be too disappointed if they never bloom.

You'd be forgiven for losing hope after the frost kills off the rest of your garden.

But then, as with any proper resurrection, you'll find they spring forth one morning without warning or fanfare, casting the whole world into color.