

Portrait of a Dead Princess

by Gary Hardaway

Spade the grave dirt cautiously.
Lift the crafted lid
of the Bronze Age coffin

slowly, with deliberate regard.
Extrapolate, interpolate
to add imaginary flesh

to fragmentary bones.
Trace a life's itinerary
in the strontium variations

in cloth and tooth enamel.
The data fields yield
the harvest of her story.

