

Austin Alexis

RELIC

*for September 11*

Her body was incinerated  
when one of the planes  
crashed into the floor  
above the floor  
where she worked every weekday,  
devoted to emails, memos, files.

Only her open-toed shoe remains.  
Even the strap at the back  
came through intact.  
Authorities solemnly gave  
the stylish sandal  
to her numb husband.  
He has placed it  
where she usually housed favorite items:  
on the left, gracing her closet floor.

Miraculous, even freaky,  
it endures the shame of having survived  
by merely continuing to exist  
after the holocaust.  
It proves to be  
less fragile than a human  
and strong enough  
to carry a person's spirit.