

## Marissa Glover

### Externals

Because Julian Rotter was right  
about the locus of control, you keep running

the long course toward *kotinos*, avoiding the nettle  
and rocks you've strewn across your path,  
while everyone around you stumbles.

It is your dad's fault  
you didn't take out the trash this morning,

your boss's fault  
you didn't pay the insurance last month,

and my fault my fault my fault

that you boast the spineless butcher's broom  
as a fragrant reminder of the dizzying game you play—this twisting  
words into wreaths of perfectly placed blame

I was never meant to wear.

**Marissa Glover** teaches and writes in the great state of Florida. She shares her thoughts more than necessary, which she considers a form of charitable giving. If it counted as a tax deduction, she'd be rich. Her work has appeared in various places including *Gyroscope Review* and *The Opiate* and on her parents' refrigerator.