

FAMILY TREE

mother femme fatale pulled from the mud father weeds grow everywhere
brought the spirit from mothermother butterfly of tales worth a
lifetime motherfather in blue jaguar sugar-coated easter eggs of magic
motherbrother four years old ferried in pyjamas across the river IJ
mothermothermother died young mothermotherfather baritone undone
by women and drink mothermotherfathermother threw the digging of
the Overtoom in a sock 100 saved guilders dream at the foot of the bed
motherfathersister cast away household drudge dismissed as mad born
19 October 1919 motherfathersister alleged mothermother fathermother
imagined link between everything tractatus fatherfather for cigars and a
drink neighbourhood letter writer fathermothermother unmarried without
means fathermotherfather in flesh and blood repudiated in the name of the
stone the fortune from his fathermotherfatherfather first paint manufacturer
in the netherlands established in haarlem gambled away on horses drowned
his 19th birthday fatherfathermother had 15 children of whom the youngest
fatherfather living tree brings to life music or is it words?

Translated from the Dutch by Ko Kooman

ROZALIE HIRS