

Madison, New Jersey, 1957

by Richard Waring

Two dozen Nagasaki schoolgirls
flayed by the blinding blast

come to New York for plastic
surgery that will give them

all new faces. It is the year
flip-flops designed for Americans

are made by the Hiroshima
Rubber Company. A nanny

named Toko sings lullabies
and makes paper cranes for my

brother and me. Hula-hoops
are a craze in both our countries

and a souvenir shop in Nagasaki
is doing well on the very spot where

atomic energy changed everything.
Japanese men are back on Iwo Jima,

not as soldiers this time but as
salvagers of tanks. Baseball is all

the rage as the American All Stars
go up against the Yomiyuri Giants.

We all cheer the slap-snap
of the bats, how they inspire

miracles, bases loaded, the grand
slam bringing everyone home.