

A Safe Place

I need a safe place,
She says,
Until the end of summer.
When the velvet petals have dried
And the clear light softens
And sweet ice cream colours
Of pink blue and yellow
Bruise into russet navy and gold.

If I give you this place,
I say,
Until the end of summer
What will you do when autumn falls?
When life chills and retreats
Cobwebs glitter, mist blurs
And the danger finds you
Alone again, fearful and unsure?

If I survive,
She says,
Until the end of summer,
I will be ripe like a berry
Shiny hard like a nut
Food, not flowers to pluck
Mighty in fat and fur.
And I will bring winter to his door.