

## Lavender Silence

There is no snow this year,  
No ice, no clear air,  
The only thing frozen and biting,  
The silence between us.

This is my love, I want to say,  
This is her love, this is us,  
You see? How happy we are?  
You see the warmth between us?  
When I open my mouth, the big nothing,  
reaches onto tongue, slithers through throat,  
lungs, blood, into my heart and so with a sad,  
flat, tone to my voice, I ask,  
'Has this tree always been so tall?'  
'Can I help you with the table?'  
'How are the neighbors?'

Next time, I say,  
Next year, I say,  
Maybe, when I'm thirty  
Maybe  
When you can't hurt me  
Maybe, when I'm safe.

We go on a walk, to escape ourselves,  
But now it's worse.  
You tell me about the cheating husband,  
The village tragedies,  
Everything you can't understand.  
I bite my lips, and nod

The fog is climbing into our jackets, our heads hang low.

And all I want is to love you, the way I know

I want to scoop you up into my arms, whisper sweetness in your ears,

Tell you how beautiful you are, how thankful I am for you,

Lick your wounds, when you are hurt, heal your fears,

Help you grow the flowers in your heart.

Let you be part of my life, bring you sparkles, in a basket, I wove myself

So, I ask you.

'Can I help with the dishes?'

'Are you coping okay?'

Biting back the tears.

Maybe next year

And you tell me, about the weather forecast

I wish I could stay longer