

1971

## Wishes on a Blue Afternoon

John Batki

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Batki, John. "Wishes on a Blue Afternoon." *The Iowa Review* 2.2 (1971): 25-25. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1192>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

WISHES ON A BLUE AFTERNOON

When slow frost winds its way into your skull  
you might ask,  
“Where did you hide the eleven ways  
you promised?”

And true, you could think of floating, of  
floating away,  
but please think of “labendz” (pronounced  
wahbendz, softly, nasally)

it means swan. O think of the “swan of bees”  
(a child’s thought)  
and think of the yellow rose petals I glued  
over my eyes.

I wish you wine-red dahlias for each Tuesday  
of the year  
and the king of dragonflies for a pendant  
in your ear.

Don’t say “Please” and “I’m sorry” and  
“Close the door”,  
say “I wish I were a fish upon a rose, sailing  
in the Adriatic Sea.”