

1971

# Epithalamium

Louise Glück

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## EPITHALAMIUM

My mother said Why not  
I had no reason  
I came into linen

And the workmen came  
I watched them coming  
To install the tent

I stood and smiled  
They wrapped my head in gauze  
They took my photograph

And then the women kissed me  
They were crying  
Out of happiness

It was what I wanted  
All except the ring  
I did not want the ring

I said so afterward  
I took it off  
I threw it, I was crying

And the stone  
Came out  
No one said a word

But they got back at me  
It was rehearsed  
They made a wall, they threw

The contract at me  
I had signed as though  
It could not have been otherwise.