1993

The Robed Heart

Elizabeth Spires

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview
Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.4237
Body of the world! Body of flesh!
Leaving this room, I leave the orbit of women.
I dress and walk into the snowy night,
into the great body of the world,
cold, still, and expectant.
Bodying forth, I am taken by the dark.

What am I? Asked, shall I say:
- Struck by a spark, I quickened
  and was born to flashing
  days and nights, a small significance
  of one. I did not wish to change,
  but changed, feeling desire and fear
  and love, failing many times.
- My meaning made, I died,
  the windows darkening for the last time.

We move, we love, we cry out,
we hold or cannot hold to what we are
and finally wake to find ourselves
changed beyond all imagining.
Was it enough to have lived?
In that moment of still approach,
will it be given to us to know?

THE ROBED HEART

They come in white livery bringing the sun,
the Robed Heart astride her white mount,
crowds lining the royal road in anticipation.
Ahead, the castle flying the new colors,
a queen’s great labors come to an end.
A shout, and the cord is cut,
the crown placed upon my head.

And I am, Mother, I am!