For Lack of Your Delicate Hip

James Thomas Stevens

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

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation

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.
FOR LACK OF YOUR DELICATE HIP

Sullen and anxious, I rose last night while others kept right on sleeping, braving winds against the nightmare, walking first to the dark counter for a glass of wine and on to the garden to consider that feverless spot beside me where last night you lay for the first time in my arms.

Lighting a fire in the chimney pot, I pulled blackened stems from last year’s yield of sunflowers and considered the day. How walking down the street, the mechanical count of parking metres clamoured in my ears, weighing the time till we could lie again, your long foot pressed against against my leg.

And while those life gone stalks turned to ember, I watched the fine hair roots that burned most quickly, the tiny miracles I had resigned myself to for nourishment. Cinders that night fashioned into words you whispered when I last held you. Cinders that caught in the leaves of our thinking, lighting the garden and allowing notice of the thoughtfulness of tulips to raise their heads in February.