

JESSICA LASER

## *Poem with Lies*

Nothing in pride but a flower.  
Nothing in a stare but glass life.  
No fruit but a spore  
and silent nectar. To remember  
this is to bear all things. Life bears  
no fruit but of too much color, stands  
for taste where sun and taste ally.  
Branches permeate less  
I see through them. This is not a passionless lie.  
I know they are living when all they slope  
is pale and dusk beneath and though  
I open my finer imitation, love  
is a child spurned, unpracticed for.  
Things I've experienced number  
far greater than those I love, so I felt,  
as I feel, doubt is fate,  
and doubly so for being left alone  
indeterminate. The thief is about.  
Must be. I have three verses in me left  
before it leaves and it's summer  
summer summer. I live  
with three people. They  
are my parents. They place a bowl  
of sand before me and a spoon and  
beg me drink. Drink? I ask.  
The chain is yellow. She is sitting  
there, and he and he. And with the sun  
one end in each hand  
I pass the hours walking  
a child poverty comes with  
money on the table  
and leave remembering  
having no belongings  
my funds are exercise. The  
child moves faster for it. I quarter  
the three I love most

four chairs round a table  
the blue vase full of flowers, life  
a show of flowers. Your life  
is showing indebtedness  
revenge. I say it won't  
be long now, the verses are up  
with the sun. The sky tucks  
in the newborn focus.  
When the parliament falls,  
down will come interest,  
a transparent person, three  
of them, turning on me, their focus  
over the table, money  
and a glass of sand I could  
mistake for settlements  
in the way of clouds. Only yesterday  
I saw them stirring and let them slide  
under me where rest takes shape  
home because in summer  
there is no war room  
or medicine. In summer there  
we are. Too much outside.  
And the blood when waters freeze  
is the blood-thick salt left when waters  
leave. Time passes so quickly now  
I can hardly say all the words  
I don't want to say to say  
I can't say them. I have.