

**LOUISE GLUCK** was born in New York in 1943. She studied with Stanley Kunitz at Columbia, and recently taught at Goddard College and the University of North Carolina. She has received many awards for her work, including a Rockefeller Foundation grant, a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and the Eunice Tietjens Prize from *Poetry* magazine. *Firstborn* was published by New American Library in 1968; her second book is near completion.

#### GEMINI

There is a soul in me  
It is asking  
To be given its body

It is asking  
To be given blue eyes,  
A skull matted

With black hair  
That shape  
Already formed & detaching:

So the past put forth  
A house filled  
With asters & white lilac

A child  
In her cotton dress,  
The lawn, the copper beech—

Such of my own lives  
I have cast off—the sunlight  
Chipping at the curtains

And the wicker chairs  
Uncovered, winter after winter,  
As the stars finally

Thicken & descend as snow