

Sleeping Beauty is that rag of soul  
dangling in the twigs.

If those thorns are to bloom,  
the kiss must come from herself.

Anyone else who tries will be turned  
into her twin  
easily laid by a spindle.

What can persuade her to self-love?  
Fairness. But she leaves it out  
so she can have her canopy of thorns.

### PERDITA IN A LARGE WORLD

The tower window gaped like a mouth,  
and birds flew to nests in the tower throat.  
The river died, passing through a dead boat.  
All dead, within sight of the sea  
where other streams poured out their guts,  
and boats flashed like sun on the water.  
The wind was dead, so I moved here  
like a wind, pushing flowers to their heads.

He knelt as if he could raise the stems again.  
I did want to trust that sign of soul,  
a botanical Christ, but he gave no sigh  
when he killed the dogs for their plain speech.  
I looked down so he could not see my eyes.  
I wanted to leave but did not know how,  
kept at the source of stink with no wind,  
only the bird clatter of throats and wings.