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Threnody

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Threnody

Cover Page Footnote

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as child i stood

as child i stood,
chin-high to polished sill.
parlordark stood round me,
her hands mothersoft on my shoulders.

bed-ready i stood,
secure in footed sleepers.
my silver breath piled slow
from the window corner:
i told me strange and many things
in lovely lettering
that only childhood could read.

and streetlight stood,
star-high to the windy elm.
white-jewel snow swirled round him
and was as lovely in his light
as his light was lovely
because of her.

as child i stood,
and told me with my breath
"they must be loving"

ray pavelsky

THRENODY

When sun shone young and grass was firey green
and sky rang brilliant blue with singing birds
when stars' first fires winked night's gentle caress
and secret longing stirred a summer earth
while barefoot through the sand all diamond white
and running as the wind smiled through her hair
the moon playing his tricks upon her face
reflected in her eyes his stolen light
it was that night I made my own true choice
or thought the choice I made was my own true.
But now a few short years have turned me old
and scream my madness in a new-found night
no longer sweet with mystery but too clear
to eyes haunted by dreams of crisp brown leaves.
when stars' first fires winked night's gentle caress

jack vorrasi