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Again How the Weather Was

Alan Stephens

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ALAN STEPHENS

AGAIN HOW THE WEATHER WAS

After the rains and chilly aftermath,
 warmish, 'genial' winds, clear all day, though
 not too clear for the eye's comfort—
 with night, stars exceptionally distinct
 and brilliant, windiness in trees
 though quiet on the ground mostly,
 some sort of scent in the air, some
 flowering bush—the light
 in houses brilliant, houses
 filled full as if to bulging
 with light, as sacks with wheat
 when amongst the hectic
 work and racket, machinery
 and dust whirring in August blaze,
 all seemed to rush to a quiet
 wheat shine—these houses
 filled full with such light.

LINDA PASTAN

BRITTLE THINGS

I dream of brittle things:
 A papery moth whose wings
 Are colored like a kite
 That blows apart in flight.
 I dream of things that break:
 The surface of the lake
 Before the children swim.
 The children are so thin
 Their bones stick out like wings.
 I dream of brittle things.