

1943

## Alien

Ann Louise Bowman

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## FOUR POEMS

## ALIEN

He saw the wind diffuse soft dust,  
     Subduing color to its glintless beige;  
 He watched the creek edge through the crust  
     Of cracked gray earth which was its winter bed;  
 He touched stalks brittle with the drouth,  
     And, propped against an unkempt, barren tree,  
 Savoured the hinting salt upon his mouth,  
     Heard sea, spread thin on sand, reclaimed by sea.

## SUNDAY

He gave no reasons for the hours he spent  
 Alone but seated where his hand could reach  
 To rest on mine. The message which I meant  
 For him he gave to me; all words must slow  
 That still, compassionate tongue our hands could speak—  
 For though our minds held tumult, yet his touch  
 Gave comfort which I had not dared to seek,  
 And for the peace I took he gave me thanks.

## TO A DISCHARGED SOLDIER

Come! The sunshine seeks you, calls you back.  
 You neither won nor lost—the game goes on.  
 Must you, possessor of the highest stakes,  
 In shame yet say, “They were not fairly won,  
 I took the prize before the play was out”?  
 It is not so. You but reclaimed your own.

## POEM

By fantasy half caught  
     Our minds are slow  
 To turn to staid thought.