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poems
by
doctors

This Child

Miriam Brown

Look at this child;
see the hand that strikes her,
watch her shoulders wilt,
glimpse her diffident plea.

Taste for this child;
tire of her insipid fear,
sip tentatively others' asperity,
become jaded by nausea.

Feel for this child;
reach for her in her distance,
bounce off her armour,
be cut by her latent scars.

Listen to this child;
hear her laughter echo and fade,
catch the catch in her throat,
heed her cry.

For this child
become astute.
Discover her secret
and acknowledge for her
the chafe of misplaced guilt.

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