

so I preferred to curl up quietly with her behind the orange screens
and meditate on the back alleys
outside the window
letting my imagination slither
helplessly

Dolores has retired to my kitchen now
to play with Brenda Brontosaurus on the refrigerator
plastic dinosaurs just as helpless as they ever were
while I've crawled up from the ground floor
but Dolores catches me sometimes with her empty eyes
and I'm running again
along another back street
I thought I'd forgotten

ROBERT HANDICOTT

CHOKA: TABEBUIA ROSEA

Men with chainsaws have
Advanced along the footpath,
Leaving us a grim
Row of ghastly amputees.
Sagging power lines
Are safe now for years to come.
So easy to slump:
Give up. What's the use? — But watch
The pink ball flower's
Mute slow-motion sky-rockets
Signal the sap's defiance!

