

Melodee Unthank

VALENTINE

She gave me these roses
musty, warm roses

rained on roses
and asked me to stay

the birds are finally emerging
after the rain

i hope they won't be traumatised
by the presence of this glorious day

don't disappoint, stay, oh please
stay

so i sat cross-legged on the bed
hands eccentrically in place

and she draped her ballerina arms about
me and call it what you will

she spoke to me as un-rehearsed
as temporary snow—

she said the rain moves like a fountain
in every detail of the garden

the lyrebirds spend time self-contained
the perfume is exquisite

cast off in the bedroom
the roses fade so quickly, fade, just like

a valentine,
do not wither on the bed now and do not be

distracted
preen/ coolly strut with eyes that follow

lines connected, outside near
the rain's wet face

stay, watch the roses—salvaged
like a wet dream

stay watch the petals fall
rake the garden's underside