

FAITH ALLINGTON

Rapturous

Veiled with a haze
of light gold
as though visited by archangels,
she was still, listening.

All the doors in the house
seemed to be open.

If you stopped
to notice, was the air
always like this?

Nothing but lilies—
canna lilies, big pink flowers,
wide open, radiant, almost frighteningly alive
on bright crimson stems.

They were in her fingers,
on her lips,
growing in her breast.

She knew all along
it was a mistake.
He was far, far away.
He was dreaming.

Never wake him up.

ABOUT THE POEM

“Rapturous” was created from “The Garden Party” by Katherine Mansfield (1922). About the poem and the process of composing it, Faith Allington writes:

This piece was constructed from fragments and lines in Katherine Mansfield’s short story. But while I used words in sequential order, I tried to create an entirely new narrative of an affair with its attendant rapture, longing, and loss. The flowers served as a metaphor for the frightening, out-of-control blooming.

