White Rabbits Aubade

To be sung on the first morning of a Spring month.

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The dove

moans in the morning

mourning talons

she can't have.

'I'm no owl, no owl.

But love me, love!

Do not release

your dog.

I'll do it too, I'll do it too:

watch over him

and you.'

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A robin's beak meets my rabbit eye

at breakfast time, staring and writing.

But he's not watching me, flickering

and grooming my imaginary ears,

feeling the moment stretching its back.

His eyes, out of my sight, are scanning

180 degrees sideways, bird-wise.

And in the garden drops all leaving round the robin, he has only time

to catch minute reflections of himself:

red bites on brown, against green light.

Faster than they fall, he's gone. For once

in that white minute, I don't paw the clock.