

Morning Song

Love set you going like a fat gold watch.

The midwife slapped your footsoles, and your bald cry
Took its place among the elements.

Our voices echo, magnifying your arrival. New statue.
In a drafty museum, your nakedness
Shadows our safety. We stand round blankly as walls.

I'm no more your mother
Than the cloud that distills a mirror to reflect its own slow
Effacement at the wind's hand.

All night your moth-breath
Flickers among the flat pink roses. I wake to listen:
A far sea moves in my ear.

One cry, and I stumble from bed, cow-heavy and floral
In my Victorian nightgown.
Your mouth opens clean as a cat's. The window square

Whitens and swallows its dull stars. And now you try
Your handful of notes;
The clear vowels rise like balloons.

Comment [S(1): The word fat generally has a negative connotation. The use of this word to describe the 'gold watch' that describes love implies that the love tempts someone with a large reward, almost like bribery.

Comment [S(2): The 'gold watch' further reinforces the point that love tempts people with a fancy exterior. A gold watch has no practical use over a normal watch, as it has the same function, but it seems more valuable in terms of money. This seems to be what is being suggested about love.

Comment [S(3): The word 'Bald' that is used to describe the cry makes it sound like a primal cry, one of triumph of childbirth.

Comment [S(4): The primal nature of childbirth is further reinforced as the cry makes its way to the very elements.

Comment [S(5): The 'echo' magnifies and glorifies the arrival of the baby.

Comment [S(6): The baby is almost like a new statue in the museum.

Comment [S(7): The words as blankly as walls show how dumbfounded that the two parents are for achieving their goal of childbirth.

Comment [S(8): The persona finds herself unworthy of being the mother of the child, and claims that she is no more of a mother than a cloud that looks into a mirror with pride before being erased by the wind. This suggests that the persona is proud of the child, but cannot bring herself to be called the mother of the child.

Comment [S(9): All the yellow highlights represent nature imagery that is being related to the baby. The baby is glorified as being close to nature. As the words 'as clean as a cat' and 'moth breath' both symbolize the baby's nature. In contrast, the mother is described as 'cow heavy' and her nightgown is floral, which could be interpreted as the flat roses that the baby's 'moth breath' sweep through.

Comment [S(10): The dull stars are brightened by the presence of the baby. Once again the baby's power over nature is shown.

Comment [S(11): Even though the baby can only say a handful of notes, the vowels are clear and described as floating like balloons. The tone makes it sound like the parents are proud of the baby.