

It's something to consider.

True, they have their snowfalls.
Financial ruin and illness lurk.
The stove disappoints. Still
they go through to the drawing room.

Unthinkable to blast through
like coal miners, or crawl through
or dig through, no proper attire for
shovelling through, like pioneer women
trapped in a storm.

one day at a time.
of getting through the passage

There is no hint of working
through to the drawing room
by entering analysts, no talk
of getting through the passage

The grand ladies of Downton Abbey
announce their intent to go through
to the drawing room, after they dine.
They glide with slight rustle under
vigilant eye of a guy in tails,
arriving unimpaired.

thoughts on going through...

Best in Show

May I have the Sonnets in the ring, please?

This versatile breed had its origins
in Tuscany in the 1300s.

The Pectarcan sonnet is known
for its witty, yearning, argumentative form.

Shakespearean sonnet, which needs seven.

Adopted in England, the sonnet's tail
was modified by Thomas Wyatt into
a rhyming couplet. Beloved by Romantics,
Shakespearean sonnets are welcome guests
at weddings, anniversaries and candlelit dinners.

This short little breed's ability to stand
on its own fourteen lines insures it's place
as a heavy-weight in the formal rhyming group.

Here is Sonnet Number 29.

**the Downton Dowager Countess
speaks to her American audience....**

I can see how one would swoon at the sight
of Lady Mary's shimmering gowns,
a revelation - much like her shoulders,
or long for restorative tea and cake,
that our opulent dining dazzles;
how our gleaming goblets of brandy
quietly mesmerize. You dare not even
dream of staff to bestow impeccable service.
Our dog is just like yours.

But what entralls you, really?
What draws you to the screen,
like creatures 'round a well-laid fire?
You shun our class disseverment.
Rightly so, I must admit,
though at least we can speak of it.

Is it that Carson guards the door?
How Mrs. Hughes goes to hospital
utterly unencumbered? Do you breathe
a secret sigh of relief that stewards
carry our guns? Are your jangled nerves
soothed by civil conversation? Even I
encase my arrows in tiny satin sheathes.
When rebellious Irish chauffeurs storm
the library, Carson serves them tea.
We do our best. The center holds.

Face it, you want to be me.

Best in Show announcer banter...

David, I know you're a fan of Villanelles –

Yes, Mary I'm on my third villanelle,
and let me tell you it's worth putting up
with their repetitive lines.

Aren't they teased for chasing their tails, Dave?

Well, Mary, that's a charming trait –

Not like those free verses running around your house,
you never know what to expect from them.

FV's make playful companions, Dave,
and they're great with my kids –

always licking their faces.



This little book is dedicated to Gloria Williamson -
the greatest wit of all

Dream on, Mary. We need to take a short break –
the haiku group will be up next!

I think they have a chance this year against
the French Surrealists. That Pablo is stunning!

Just listen to that crowd.

They've never won Best in Show, Mary.

in high school – it was the love of my life.

No surprise there, Dave. I had one

just a bit too eager to please for my taste.

here come the Odes –

Speaking of face licking, Mary,

Best in Show
or why I miss winter TV




Mary Mueller

Please recycle to a friend!

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Best In Show
or why I miss winter TV
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