

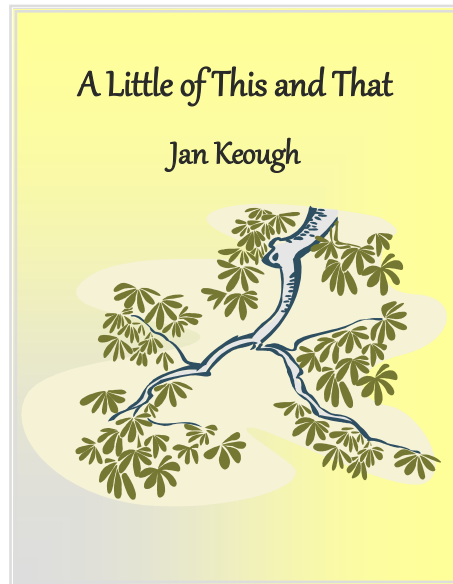
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Origami Poetry Project

A Little of This and That

by Jan Keough © 2009



AN APRIL'S VIEW

The weeping cherry trees bloom
In daring white pinks
On branches that were
Iced in brown rain
A month ago.
I guess they know what they're doing -
Racing May's foliage call,
Ignoring April's nasty reputation.

I've seen blossoms fade and fall
In early spring pretence.
Their pretty days soon sung silent
By anxious rainfall that aches
Every petal from a slow-leafed branch
Defenseless in too-cold nights.
While the yet-furrowed soil
Where worms dream to uncoil
Lies blameless.

EINSTEIN, ETC.

From the density of air
They found the speed of sound.
From the speed of sound
They found the speed of light.
From the speed of light
They spoke of life—
Of the speed of it
And the need of it
And the hope for
Understanding it.

I LOVE MATH

my fingertips know the
alphabet of numbers.
counting the odd ones
got me thru math class
and a first job
making change
at the bagel bakery.
I still use digits for
7 plus 5 since twelve
is more than I can hold
but not more than I now know.

WE ARE KNOWN

Even as you read,
Your thoughts are pressed
For keeping.
The looks you send to others
Are caught in flight.
Well-placed glories
Are swept into storage.
All are yours.
Words, feelings,
The flickering touch
Cascade around you.
One seamless spinning
Spent in faithful attendance,
Full of obligation,
Ready to serve
Until your command releases.

IT TAKES FORGIVENESS

I see that it takes forgiveness
To manage time,
To answer the selfish mind
Without self-pity.
I'm letting it all go free -
Slide downstream and
Retrieve every word misspent.
Wanting revenge:
I'll dis-remember them all,
One prod, one picturful piece
At a time until
Only the husk of past tense
Lies empty and still.
I believe that it takes forgiveness.