

## House Fly

One thing about me is I seem to attract flies.  
There. I needed to let you know straight away.  
So you could decide if I'm worthy enough  
to bring flies into your atmosphere.

It's embarrassing to admit, But I find it best  
to get it out in the open straight away.  
So that when you do see me  
swat away at the pesky things  
you are not taken aback.

After long talks in therapy, and many tears,  
I've tried not to feel so disheartened  
that the thing I attract most  
is something associated with  
rotting birthday cake  
or a pile of trash in the summer heat.

Please don't give me tips or suggestions either,  
they seem to swarm around me  
regardless of my hygiene,  
regardless of the perfume I pile on, lipstick I smear,  
or the way I scrub my skin raw with soap in the shower.  
There is something bigger than it all-  
with this attraction.

So please note, if you do prefer to keep my company,  
that this is an ongoing issue. It may be best if we  
stay inside or enjoy an indoor activity.  
Something quiet, like going for a movie.

And it is okay if you do decide  
that the buzzing that surrounds me  
may be too much for you to bear.

## **The Mattress We Bought in 2019**

The ghost of you visited me in my dreams last night.  
They slid into my bed,  
not ours, or yours, but mine.  
They threw their arms around me  
and held me like you used to.

It felt so real that for a moment that  
I grazed my fingers over their arm  
and smiled at the mole that I had smiled at for years.  
For a moment it felt just like the past.

The trickle of morning light came too soon,  
or maybe just the right amount of time.  
And you were gone.

## **In Between Our Place and Mine**

I wish I knew how little time we had,  
before it was our last time.

The way I would have savored your lips,  
while they still wanted mine.

