

Wilderness House Literary Review 3/4

Lucy Holstedt

AUTUMN

Autumn's demeanor is refined.
The outrageous, shouting summer
 of eating, growing and procreation
Has yielded to a lady-like serenity.

She enters gracefully, and
 sets down her bounteous armloads of flowers.

Her cool nights like calm hands
 come to rest in the lap of the land.

She smoothes her ample skirt, and
 calms the rumples of the wild days.

Frost is still far off,
 and even speckled gold has not arrived.

Now is a time to catch one's breath,
Revel in richness,
Reflect on a year three-quarters spent,
 satisfied

Before the tucking-in begins,
The closing, darkening, quilted
 quieting of winter dreams.