

Yellow Flowers Copyright © 2018 by Kenny Flaten

All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, businesses, organizations, places, events and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Yellow Flower Publishing For information, address kennyflaten@gmail.com

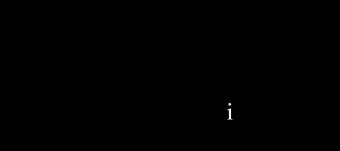
Illustrations, Book design, and Cover design by Kenny Flaten

ISBN 978-0-692-11690-6

First Edition: May 2018

10987654321

dedicated to anyone who has felt that there was no one left but themselves



i can see him in the distance staring at the road in the rain looking for a flower and a sound but not i i will sit here within a window winding down my corridor of death lacking literacy for pigment in the pavement

- the difference between him and i

i display faces like fonts attempting to convey to you the same sentiment with different means but what is seen not makes me want to slip into a guillotine and relieve myself of letting you know what you would no longer conceive

- font face

the trees spoke to me when i could not find the book to read they said *find your purpose* for then you can plant all the flowers you would want

hearing that i retrieved some pebbles and planted them i never caught a glimpse of flowers even on the day that my mind died

waking up the next day there were flowers on my deathbed everyone was crying and i do not know why i do not think they know why either they just do it because everyone else does

i guess when we die we are surrounded by soil and pebbles that is all that really matters right

- soil and pebbles



my hands turn to sand for stripping oil in the ocean

my head aches from the ceaseless creases when i think

my heart aches for being as velvet as speckling silver

and when sleep is imminent i reap the presence of death and consent it as remnant

- i am tired all the time

taking a stroll down the sidewalk at 10 pm i take a sip of coffee it reminds me of every word you have said every verse you have read and it is hard to overcome death's grip on me and my grip on insanity

you make it hard to move past what about you is changing because what anticipates me is knowing what you took may be nevermore remaining

> - large nonfat mocha please and thank you

i wonder if i could just slip into the mirror and see everything wrong with me

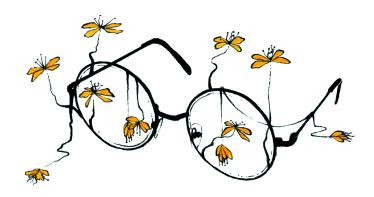
where i could live the life in peace to see my skull through every crease

where i could take away my face and have something to replace

every day where i would not wake up to your lips against my cheek and not desire again to sleep

where you could be the mirror on the wall and make my thoughts a bit clearer

- the mirror and i



why am i absent of color even when you fill my flower pot with a seed leaving you with a dozen more and a stream of water down my face just to fall on the floor

- flowerpot floorboards

they say if you repeat a word enough times it will lose all meaning

that is how i feel glaring into the mirror

- me me me him him him there is a place up in the sky where all events thought of lie through the sun's rays and the balloons your child missed upon the clouds and the stars like a black and white bouncy house full of feather pillows

the bright lights remind me
of what is important
what needs to fall back to ground
back to me and back to you
so that moments may turn to yellow
from a previous
green
black
and blue

- there is a place

i do not want to be another piece of your puzzle no

you could simply find any other that would resemble me

i want to contribute to the final draft be known among a sea of other segments and receive your *personal* acknowledgment for not fitting into the societal ideal of a paperboard cutout

- just another piece of a puzzle

writing is the single source of secrets i reveal to the world where the people who understand are the only ones who should

- secrets

there are so many feathers
i pluck and throw away
and within periodic time i find
one
causing me awestruck
to reveal to the world what
colors
i have in store

i try to find more and m o r e and m o r

then i reach the end where they give all my feathers back and ask me to start all over again

- you can take them again i do not mind

one of these days in an alleyway i will write an essay with the hue of a matrimonial whim and cut the stem to my brick brain which contains the feathers of all my other letters

- invitation from death

i would rather be shown the truth and become devastated than be deceived by a sleuth and remain content with what i perceive

- the ugly truth

i have lost my color i wonder where it went i guess i will find another

it will be sanity well spent

- sensible spending

though impressed to them only that neither you or i dress in the same hue it is only fair to blame our same shaded minds for mixing the tints of us two

- different colors

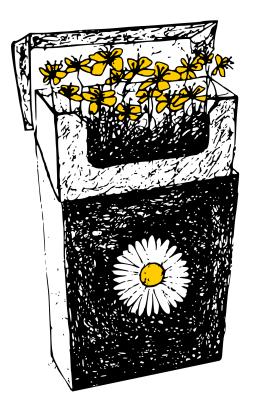
tomorrow is a new day escaping today's mess

i will be ordered organized content and redressed

however for right now inwards

i am less

- empty box of hope



staring down a sidewalk in the middle of the night everyone is deep in their dreams i am the one alive and alright

friends are awaiting me in the morning i am going to sleep i will try to see you again

i can not get out of this mess for me because you have been alive and alright

the sound of waves pass through me on a beach but i am only on a sidewalk in the middle of the night

i am only dead inside you are in my sight through which i cry and all my rights are for you to smite i fight for me i am not me you see where am i heading and where am i going to be

perhaps in an alley or where am i from and where was i before was it at that beach and the shore

the waves of the shore
are you so sure
you are so pure
of course you are not
you bought that coffee in the
store

it smelled of a sense and you felt it on a sidewalk so why am i not sure

that the same me i am now in the middle of the night is not me on that ocean floor

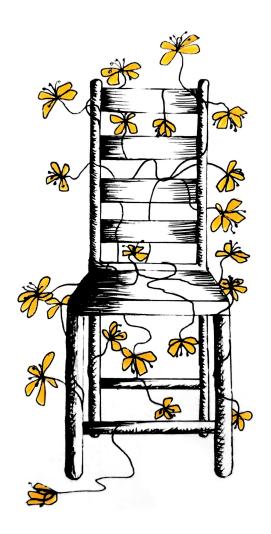
- not me

there is a chair that i sit in settled in a raven room with weak wailing and nails nailing

it disturbs my solidarity of space down to superb detail and withdraws my soul until whatsoever remains becomes withered and waned

such a ladderback whitewashed with broken black will constrain the conception of canary i formerly knew and alter it into another hue

- there is a chair



i stand in a room nothing too defined reality draws near into myself and to their dismay i am not realigned

i am sorry
i say in isolation
would you like to be dead
without hesitation

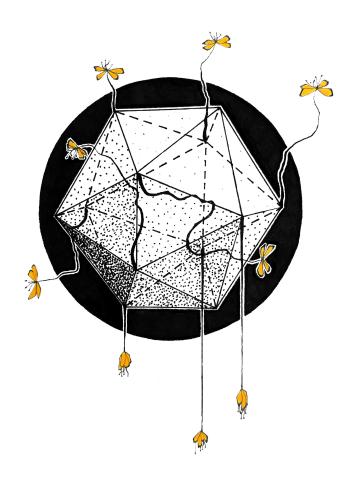
it is precisely what they said would you wish to be ahead i am not convinced if they consist yes i would yearning to be ahead

and so it began ending supremely sublime at the timely shrine of design

asked anew was a question for you are you there

he may declare oh no i am fine

- the end of design





there is this place in the back of my head where thoughts die

> after a while a lost lover will steal from my embossed thought pile

once again starting to feel that the pain is truly real and return those thoughts back to my brain

- thought pile

## dear past self

do not do it i cannot permit walk a different way i know you will not be the same but you will not be astray and it will save you the shame of showing someone someday

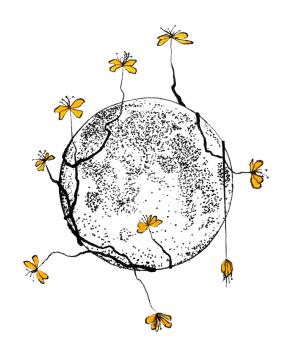
- sincerely your future broken self if only lessened was not affection there need not be deflection and i for you would be fond to yearn for a boundless bond

- if you ever have the motivation for attaining yellow

i feel as though time slips away never forgone rather slow

i am under the impression it is the last day and the universe is in digression

- going backwards



i do not think there is any easy way of saying *i am going insane* for your brain is dwindling to diversity

it is the only thing you have and it is so internally

d

e

a

d

that you can not tell if everyone else experiences this or if it is all in your

h

e

a

d

- all in my head



your voice was the paint on my canvas of a life forever imprinted until the whitewash wiped my past away

- it may be temporary though we will see to anyone who i initiated a conversation in the company of who patiently waited for my reply and after a while i caused them to sigh as they sat waiting for a glimpse to smile

to anyone who could not perceive color through their eyes from the paper on the gifts that their mom let them open on christmas eve

to anyone who wanted to draw in a sketchbook or paint a photo of a person but did not want someone to be mistook or for the artwork to worsen

> to anyone who refrained from preferring me and my repartee or when with them i disagree

> > i am sorry

- sincerely me

when i think of things people tell me to express myself

when i display to them what is possible to be conducted within one's head i am told to cease thinking

what is left then when musing is stalled

- what is left

this is just a dream i say to myself muffled screams shattering in

across the sands of the atmosphere the heat radiating from my palms even when i touch my face

> i can see it the shimmer of silence in the distance it whispers my name until i listen but when i do it vanishes

there is nothing here

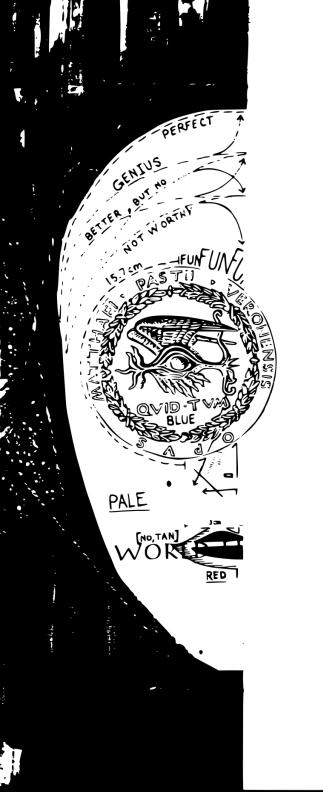
- there never was

i am death's skin that he unzips to a bed slipping into merino sheets the ones with yellow thread

- persona sleep

my eyes are the paintbrushes to all of the things i find beautiful in the world

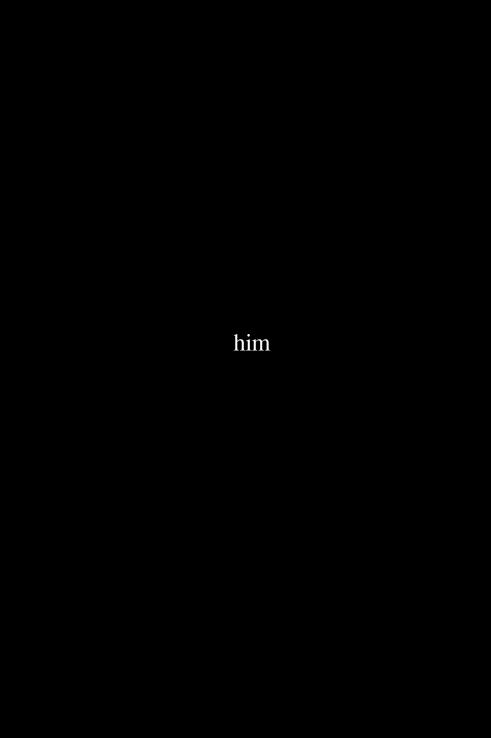
- painting my reality



the spine of his head is the pinnacle of my upper atmosphere where at the heels of his eyes lie all things i reject to consider and atop my brain all things he cannot fathom

i just want to write you and him letters with words i give silent acknowledgment of disconnecting him with i

- i before him



he can see i in the midst of the downpour

where words wailed of i's pain never reach his head and where flower beds there and here disappear

he has to ponder to yonder to hold bold marigolds and to impose i within the same spectrum of prose

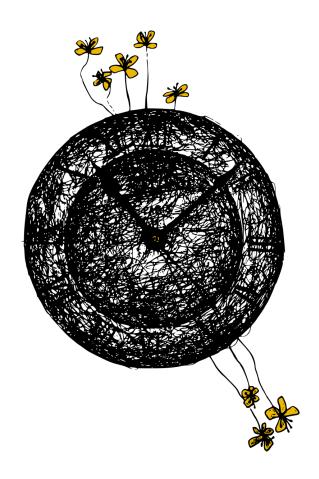
- from the perspective of him

his words are the water on your skin the kind of you feel outside the shower droplets of thoughts evaporating from your pores into the drain of air surrounding your hair

- but you do not care

time spent reading the past instead of writing your life is mere wasted thought

- sky of wasted thoughts



what is the meaning in living for what he would die for after he is dead

- a lifeless purpose

he does not want to get used to yellow for if he holds in yellow long enough it will start to look white and he would not want all of his states of being one and the same tint

or would he

- indifferent



you were an earl grey steeping in another's cup and he genuinely was in love with the aroma but he was discontented knowing that you were already expressing in another's water chroma

- just some temporary jealousy

he once thought of a melody that recounted what the water signified and stared at his hands saying what have you written hearing in his head the crashing of the ocean and the weight of sand in his shoes

- staring down a sidewalk

to him sitting in a room full of silence is always better than any conversation where he whispers with his shadow

- alone alone

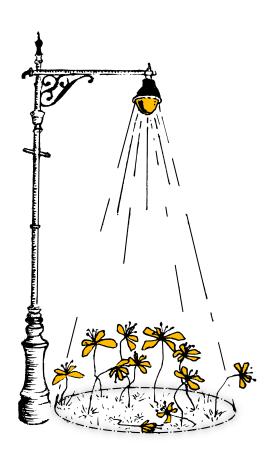
if he ever stops searching for flowers he only requests that people continue with their day when he decays so that the feather's distress will not become a bouquet

- a bouquet of my letters

he once treasured a certain attachment and lost it to not his own grievances but began to notice that through attempted repetition of what was once had that he will not be able to attain love in the same condition

for the time being the flowers are all he has for friends and if they die he will become as gray as an ashtray mourning on friday evening for his color to be restored on sunday morning

- ashtray wednesday



it is 2 am
tip tap
clip clap
his feet go on the sidewalk
and a crowd in his head
who cannot comprehend
the purpose
of a bed

- sleepwalking through life

he contrived a letter with his dear feelings wrapped inside and placed it in the mailbox sending it across the countryside

when it arrived she decided not to open it rather she took a drive to the seaside and soaked it with the water from all her deprived memories

content that she was nevermore left was the water her the letter she ignored and the ink absent from any eyes for in the ocean it would sink

and in a few years the husband in his thoughts he would not dare think my oh my is not this a lovely drink

- the letter

he is not sure where yellow flowers originally lie all he knows is that he keeps observing people throw them out bedroom windows and they are not realizing flowers regrow the year to come for other people to pick

- yellow is contagious

you



it locks you shut
to where you have been staring all these weeks
and peaks through the doorway
to make sure you are content with
how you have been *not* feeling
and reeling in across the floor your eyes

for your ears bleed your voice my dear your mouth is unable to say what you feel and your mind says what your skin cannot

you consume in this room a complex plot of knowing who you are and jotting down a perfect to-do list

> all the while lying staring at walls waiting for a story to be written

> > just not by you

- what is the meaning in even getting up when did declaring you believe in something become nothing to love

when was throwing yourself into the clash of desire and happiness never discussed

when was showing up to such an event ever enough

- an internal conflict

you give me a sense of purpose

it is so because you are the *only* person i have *ever* known that has noticed *the things i create* before noticing *me* 

- the one and only

you chop down trees and build with linking logs with wood as red as the blood in his veins overwriting his wash of wonder bark as rough as chapped lips unused from the isolation of past times

marble eyes meet in this haze leaving you clueless as to where the stems went and when he realized stolen was present pigment

animals in the distance can feel the tension and oh my did you forget to mention you misplaced the hue and he recalls the book it has been long overdue and he feels askew

so he writes another featuring his only thoughts the ones that were fey where he can throw the previous away and love to live other days

- marble eyes

we are both pillars of the same bridge cars drive upon us exclaiming lyrical vows and taking part in carouse

if one of us shall break another's hope is at stake to keep drivers driving for safety's sake

- broken bridge

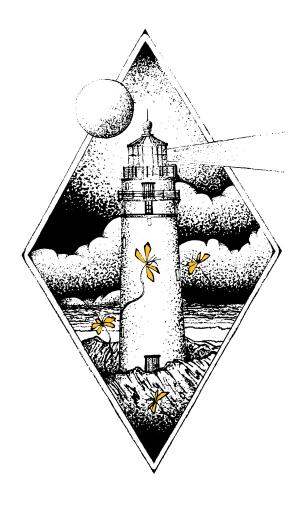
talk to people like you wash fabric when you come out of the dryer you will smell fresh and new and everyone will not have a clue that your shirt is a different hue

- i love clothes straight from the dryer in the entirety of the forest
he was oblivious above
and you were the airless mourning dove
the leaves fell with the wind
and spindles of twine
wrapped around his mind
to develop a kindling fire burning the past
for you in the back of the sky
where birds fly endlessly trying to
figure out
what the flowers below signify

- it is pretty scary up here now that i think about it do not identify as what you make for if people do not like what you do and then you will not create then who are you

- white flowers



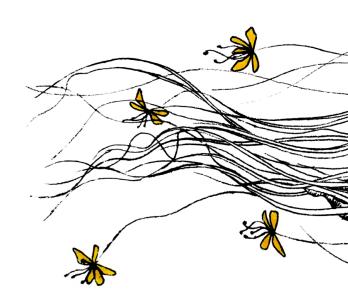


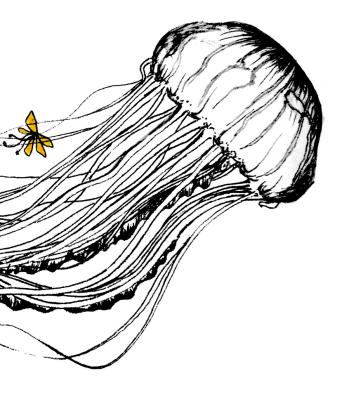
in a place
currently abstracted from your view
is a billow of sincerity
assembling for posterity
to encounter you
soon an hour
preparing to accord a flower
not for the reason that
it reconciles within itself the lower tide
but because it desires that yourself with it
you can reside

- tidewater love

loving someone
is like seeing a jellyfish
and pointing out the beauty
but get too close
and the sting of their lies
will let you sink
in a sea of demise

- loving a jellyfish





having someone understand is closing a book rereading in your dreams and waking up to mended seams

- understanding



i want to hold your skin at my fingertips and have you shiver beneath a blanket letting you know i am here

i want to whisper within your dreams and make you consider a walk in front of street lamps the flame of the lights permeating your lashes

i want to endure the silence of a morning sun fragmenting your apartment window as you breathe in the coffee brewing aroma

i want you to study art in the same form that i view you to discern strokes of paint across a canvas while the azures mix with your understanding

i want to laugh at your spontaneous jokes in the middle of the night and go to sleep knowing i would not want to be anywhere else

- the silence of a morning sun

satellite perched on ocean high note i you are to me nigh

> do you owe the night the perception of a twilight

- see you tomorrow or the day after that the people who attempt to afflict your skull are also the people who have been feeding from the depths of your mind

- it all works out when they go to sleep at night on the occasion that you leave love in hopes that it was infatuation i need you to remember the reason i was there was not for you

it was the way in which you were reshaping me

- it was not supposed to be permanent was it

the plants will wither when the ground turns from warm to winter a mind capable of such sweet affection is ruined by the soul's objection

- i bet you love winter

diverse events
are sewn into my perception
when i realize
that ages derive from deception
and the things that i thought were forever
have now caused me displeasure

- just a restatement nothing more i hope that when you lay down to sleep at night you dream about all the things i think of during the day

- the other you

the more you become concerned with how people judge you the more you become like how you think you are judged

- your looking glass self

you are everyone
the people surrounding me
however you may be the closest flower i have found
or the farthest from my brain spine
but you are not him or i
you are them
and you are not looking for anything
at least from where he is standing

- the difference between you and me

it makes me feel that everything i think of lacks purpose it makes me feel that the sounds around me need to stop that they are the reason for me falling out of the sky it makes me feel that the letters in the back of my mind need to flood out of my eyes but they cannot because you are always looking it makes me feel that i am isolated in a crowd full of people because they do not have the vertebrae my skull contains it makes me feel that words are not enough that i need to visit someone who specializes in yellow it makes me feel that even he is out of reach of i that i will not ever be able to recover my meaning it makes me feel that the words i display to you will never be adequate and that the letters i address are a waste of my mind it makes me feel that every time i review my worth there is nothing it makes me realize that i need to feel more than this more than what i have been given more than a flower flowing down the stream i need to feel the touch of your skin i need to feel the presence of myself in a room thinking the same thing that he is i need to feel the thing that i have been deprived of my whole life i need to feel that when you are away you are still here lying right beside me to whisper me awake

- me



no one notices very much a sense of time and wonders who inspired and associated death with love

- the difference between death and yellow flowers



pride is a bottle of sleeping pills assured it will help you sleep and sleep is the closest thing to death you will ever know but when you are truly down below there will not be any cure to take and you are going to wish you were still awake

- pride

there was a boy who led a man deep into the forest revealing to him a music sheet carved into the stump of an oak tree

he sensed the silence viewing him from afar idling to notice what he would conclude next but alas he torched the stump with his decisions including the boy whose last words were

> spare not the melodies of my music but your own

> > - trespasses

when i seal my eyes in the shower i am petrified i will not see death wander in to extinguish the faucet and hinder me from washing off the facets of loneliness

down the drain

- loneliness

moments before he falls asleep
the day surges through his head
while i wait to
sink
into my unforgiving feather pillow
reflecting upon the things
i accuse myself of doing wrong
and whether or not i have been right to
stay awake
all
along

- falling asleep

in my sleep
i
take his life
just to wake up with
death
at the end of my bed
greeting
him
with a nosegay
of
yellow flowers

- the start of something new







his soul rests on a train impatiently remaining for a station awaiting my embrace and only his windowpane is turning to a welsh poppy

not yours as he reports because your iris is permeated with them he cannot perch out of his own lattice and discern the spectrum you were ever mounted in

he is here and he sees them blooming solely for him being careful not to pick one or they might all just pick themselves

- meadow of the mind

in the face of disorder it dazes me that such yellow flowers could render fragmented kisses useless

> - noticing you through all the chaos

so close to your heart and beneath my yellow is verbose the thoughts i mask with water and the sun in my eyes help me grow to despise the feeling of knowing when i am done

done with explaining who i am or which books i have understood or the pages composed of blackwood

so with regards i make a request for you to read what is lain to relieve me of admiring your meadow of red

- meadow of red

the day you design unfamiliar feathers enclosed by the sky permeating with water and not letters is they day you will see in yellow

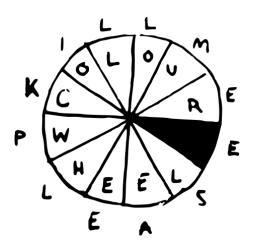
> - a supplement to your askewness

do not let another's teal conceal your colour wheel

what you hear is temporary

what is preserved is in canary

- colour wheel



pour me another glass it helps me cease thinking of how much you dislike my presence

everyone everywhere it never stops



stranded at sea upon an island of malicious bellows it appears immoderately mellow knowing there beyond somewhere are boats rowing through the tides of my thoughts

and fairly far is the perennial that perhaps i have found who will bring me back to the meadow of yellow ere i shall drown

- meadow of black

the song that gets stuck in your head
the song that speaks of growing old
the song that reveals how to feel beautiful
the song that is relatable
the song that inspires new air to breathe
the song that refills ink in pens so you can keep writing
the song that saves

that is the song to sing
when you are lost in a field
filled with the voices of the sun
and there is not one
yellow flower to admire from the soil

- looking up

i always awaken in an atmosphere midday with nineteen white lines for tattoos

they remind me of how unserene i was at sixteen how you stripped my yellow of my color wheel and how confined you caused me to feel

quite overlooked was my book of shame in things seen not and mistook was your eyesight for thinking i was content with you despite my descent being overdue

- charcoal cuts

from a past time and in the meantime until the corolla come to me i shall remain waiting at the bottom lying for color to inscribe felicity upon my aperture even as my hair is graying

- waiting forever

what is a color anyways

- from the perspective of i



he felt the aether pressure in the nether of the weather

in his endeavor on whether or never to gather his thoughts together they formed into a feather flying forth for hours to a field filled with mystifying flowers

he followed his thoughts to this meadow of yellow assuming they were blooming but this fear was confusing as the color was undoing

the feather was unfound unknown to the man it was still on the ground awaiting the rain remaining in pain to witness this shower descend to the flowers



in the eleventh hour the water came down from the clouds in pounds and the petals were restored with the purpose people picked them for

he laid down on the ground and gained the chromatic ochre that these plants contained

never once did he visit the feather write a clever letter or call for good measure

he was drained of his mind and stained with his favorite color until the end of time

- meadow of yellow

