

# Passwords

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## Bella vista

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## **Bella vista**

Natalie Dunn

His poems of love bring you to his house of collections  
sea-glass bottles  
little ancient lakes  
spill puddles of light onto the floor  
Neruda's blue-green ghost  
playful and sad  
is folded into a parched landscape  
a piece of lapis lazuli concealed in the brick wall  
a horse from India robed with round mirrors  
Russian nesting dolls still in place

small things — perpetual  
repetitive  
true  
remind you of a loyalty you have not found yet

he knew of smallness  
whispered about it to you in breaths between words

and you feel loss because he introduced the moon to you

he taught you to live like seawater  
(Loose and alone)  
Salmon fishing — your father  
Coral-red flesh swims  
He catches it (in a whisper)  
He and it become a handful of earth and sea

Slender moon  
Stay in place — small thing