

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

---

Volume 34  
Issue 1 *Spring*

Article 16

---

2004

# Solstice

Fredric Koepfel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Koepfel, Fredric. "Solstice." *The Iowa Review* 34.1 (2004): 25-25. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.S806>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

## *Solstice*

Poor winter, you precede a dream.  
The austere architecture of your dish  
of tears disdains to pilot her perfectly  
adequate silence through the hastily  
rearranged stars. Experiment, instead,  
with your repertoire of hesitations, or,  
if I have not misread you all these years,  
yours is another case of mistaken identity,  
and on December's shallow stage you're  
the breathless girl we love all the more for  
her brave cadet's costume of flared frock  
coat and blue breeches embellished at  
elbows and knees with grave rosettes. She  
is husband, as it were, to the serenades  
that bring a pink fever to the tips of her  
unkissed fingers; distraction of princes,  
she will shed many sighs before she decides  
whom she will die for. Now you wandering  
scholars of lost causes, pitch your pilgrimage  
toward the west's pavilion of fathomless  
dark fingerprints and borrow your songs from  
the fainting swan's final *fa la la*, from the brown  
wren's dim and stubborn *Go no farther*.