Exiles

She told the paparezzi
of David in the Porfumo.
They ate on the terrace.
Orange skins on the canal festered.
When a rat passed
she never stopped talking
just said oh there's a
rat and knocked ashes
from her candy cigarette.

Ready or Not

Last tabs I said last tabs.
A game I played with Death.

The white desk leaned in the open window. Near the elbow-leaning wall the toad stool on the damp loam blinks.

Outside moves the accordian to ask the river that geese form one upside down what air asks of screen.

Last tabs.

-- Ellen Tifft

Elmira, New York

Nocturne for Another Night

Voluptuous Evangeline, who sports an auburn wig, tells me, with a twisted smile, it never rains but it bores.