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## pressed lips: lèvres serrées

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## pressed lips

pressed lips,  
red as pomegranate skin,  
fit over each other,  
sealed, as the seeds we wish to keep.  
seeds or secrets, I can't tell  
as my eyes, brushing yours,  
are softly pulled down,  
and closed.

there is no child that blooms  
in the summer or springtime  
half as lovely  
as the vintage images of  
enchanted faeries  
hung above our bed.

we sleep, heavy and fitted  
in a green shell, that without  
its cream lace, might have been  
lifted and tucked around us  
as earnestly as the stems  
that fasten the summer vines.

*Jennifer Humbert*

## lèvres serrées

lèvres serrées,  
rouges comme une peau de grenade,  
ajustées l'une sur l'autre,  
scellées, comme les semences  
que nous souhaitons conserver.  
semences ou secrets, je ne peux le dire  
alors que mes yeux, caressant les tiens,  
se baissent doucement et se ferment.

aucun enfant qui éclot  
durant l'été ou le printemps  
n'est à moitié aussi beau  
que les images périmées  
des fées charmantes,  
suspendues au-dessus de notre lit.

nous dormons, lourds et serrés  
dans une coquille verte qui,  
sans sa dentelle crémée, aurait pu être  
soulevée et plissée autour de nous  
avec la sincérité des liges  
enserrant les vignes d'été.

*Translated by  
Fadoua El Bouamraoui*