

I SUPPOSE
(PURPLE STAIN)
Ralph McTell

I suppose I could have tried to stop her.
I suppose I could have made her stay.
I suppose I could have locked her in a room
Until she came to reason it my way.

I suppose some of it was my fault
No one made me get out of that train
I suppose she took a pinch of salt from tears
And in denial disputed truth of pain.

I suppose I could have made it harder
I could have said I'd hurt myself in spite
Tried a little blackmail for a starter
Got myself beat up picking a fight.

She never saw my bruised and battered features
My injured pride and drunken stumbling step
Walking through the dark streets with night creatures
Pulling at my sleeves their poisoned breath

Whispering the names of her new lovers
Worse than losing her, the hardest part
Was seeing her in my mind with another
Drove a splintered spike right through my heart.

I could not see my image in shop windows
My fingers searched my throat as if to find
The wound she left I rubbed until the blood flowed
And dried to a purple stain across my mind.