

A resident of Evanston, Dr. Eleanor Risteen Gordon taught at UIC's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1975 until 1988. She enjoyed widespread publication of her poetry, and was highly involved in her local community, volunteering at the YMCA and giving poetry readings at Evanston Public Library. On March 16, 1994, at the age of 58, Eleanor Gordon passed away. In her memory, her husband Henry Gordon organized and published her poetry in one work, *Naming the Colors: Poems by Eleanor Risteen*. The manuscript was published in a limited number.

[Untitled]

Can you stand another Spring?
Rhubarb nibbling pale fuschia
out of worm-moist earth
unwrapping yellowy leaves
with the sound of
an old accordion unpleating.
And you,
unnerved by curling pachysandra,
the border's mean blue hyacinths
the weight of trees'
growing shade,
thrust of Jack-in-the-pulpit.
Jeered at by nameless
brief-lived bugs,
forced to compare your weatheredness
to the green salad of ivy and weeds,
your fumbling hands to the beaks of birds
that know how to
swing intricate woven grass bags
from twigs
and raise up clumsy babies
to beautiful maturity (while you
raise beautiful babies to clumsiness).
Do you dare to marvel
at painted tulips
arisen new from old bulbs,
the greening lawn that spins out
whorls of dandelions—
without longing to slough outworn skin
like the lucky snake?
Onlooker, self same body,
stillborn in your drying chrysalis.