

# The Deceptive Day

Grace Bauer

It is colder than the tulips  
make it look. Colder  
than the sky's bright lie

wrapping us in a blue  
we call *baby* because  
we want it to rock us  
and keep our secrets warm.

Blue as we are because  
the world is colder  
than we want it to be,  
we, who want so little  
though it often seems too much.

And when night descends, its stars  
like bits of broken glass  
on asphalt, we will fall down  
on our knees and let them bleed

our repentance or thanks  
for whatever it is we have been given,  
whatever generous illusions we have  
once more been allowed.

Grace Bauer has published four books of poems, most recently *Nowhere All At Once* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press), and four chapbooks, most recently *Cafe Culture* (Imaginary Friend Press). Her poetry and prose have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals. She teaches Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.