LOUISE GLÜCK

HEAVEN AND EARTH

Where one finishes, the other begins.
On top, a band of blue; underneath,
a band of green and gold, green and deep rose.
John stands at the horizon: he wants
both at once, he wants
everything at once.
The extremes are easy. Only
the middle is a puzzle. Midsummer—
everything is possible.
Meaning: never again will life end.
How can I leave my husband
standing in the garden
dreaming this sort of thing, holding
his rake, triumphantly
preparing to announce this discovery
as the fire of the summer sun
truly does stall
being entirely contained by
the burning maples
at the garden’s border.