

*Snakes and Fairies*

There are snakes  
at the bottom of our garden –  
not fairies.

I found them,  
coiled beneath  
some corrugated iron,  
basking in the heat –

As soon as  
we lifted the tin  
they slipped quick,  
slick as a card trick,  
into the grass  
by our feet –

You should have seen  
us scarper  
to the safety  
of the patio.

When I was little  
I would peer  
into the ears of flowers  
and search beneath leaves  
for the fairies  
that were supposed to live  
at the bottom  
of our garden.

I think that the snakes  
must have chased them away.