

Autumn Is Not a Season

but a gaudy arena where Summer and Winter
collide, where a played-out princess
falls to a truculent new monarch.
Her warm majesty is thrown out of her palace
overnight, a moat of black chrysanthemums
surrounding it, ice bars at the windows,
gray shades drawn and smog stationed
on the perimeter to stop sun's spying
on the new regime.
An always-ready fusillade of sleet
keeps subjects bowing
as Summer and her courtiers retreat
to regroup between Capricorn and Cancer.
And soon, you who stay
must shed your ripe skin to blend with snow.