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THE ROSE IN THE ROCK

by

Janet Scott Hunter

high above the violent pool
embedded vortex
petrified rose

dangerous petals
sectarian revealed
in stagnant kiss

a deadly echo of swirling depths
below in hidden trauma
pollen dropped and drowning died

sole hope gone
slender stem bending through
the arid deathscape

seeks release
from rockfall thunder
whose tender pulse is all but silent

fire black grass remains in ash
no scattering wind no wispy strand
strange gland this flowering organ

demonstrates a surface calm
palm-display that would appease
descends the rush of cataract thorn

exploding vein in bloodshot eye
this vicious time
the rose alive