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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