

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Those We Love

by Francesca Duffield

In times of crisis, we must all decide again
and again, who we love:

who we can trust
with our eggshell lives
the unprotected bud of our hearts

those we always loved
but now love differently, more urgently
as any unconsidered breath
may blow them away
like webs on an autumn morning

those we have loved
that our hearts are glad were not here
to know this invisible pall
creeping through the gaps of the world
like fumes that cannot be kept out

those we did love, do love
who cannot swallow this bitter medicine
whose minds reel from the reality
and cannot, must not let themselves feel
your fear, and the cold unfeeling truth