a dish by some
november fire
as you lean deeper
into the branches
as if all things
that were hard
to get to
mattered more

POEM FOUND THOSE TUESDAYS

be careful there's
a kitten in the
house who must not
going out or be stepped
on please bring yr
coats downstairs and
keep the toilet
seat down

ROOM

huge desk six
cats could sun on
and never catch
each other's fleas
clay bowl with
pale apples on it
huge brass bed
half the room's
way out of reach
bust of shakes
peare one of a
sort of david
a mermaid lady
on a jug with
bird breasts
there's 12 lamps in
the room and still
everything's in
shadow it's so

WRITING MADONNA

ink on her fingers
a mixed up pair (one
brown one black) of
shoes on her toes

MAGNETIC MADONNA

rubs you the
wrong way
strong it's the
danger you smell
when she puts her
hand down there
you thought you
came to write a
piece but you
know she plays
the field you
can't resist
she holds you
like those
12 magnets on
her old amana

SHRINKING MADONNA

her skin is so
delicate you can
almost see the
nerve endings
capillaries
break down dont
dream its just
no vitamin c or
that she's pull
ing into her
self like some
leaf growing
backward its the incredible shrink ing its some thing growing turn ing to stone the dirt on that leaf pressed in to fossil pressed hard and thin leaves in a book nobody opens she's so thin when she shaves her arm pits the hair's too deep in to reach like her anger

CANDLES

the snuffing out of a miner's candle is taken as something bad if your candle goes out you go out too candles don't burn in bad air if it goes out three times something's wrong at home maybe a man's at home fooling with yr woman not a few men have been known to leave their work to check this out

HOLLY

from the holly tree to heal sick protect a house from lightning hang it in the pantry

hang it outside put it in the stable and the cattle will get big some branches are men the others those smooth ones are women whatever kind is brought in tells who'll rule for the year if the holly is brought in in fair weather it will be the wife in a fierce storm the husband

STOCKINGS

in an old town a man was bank rupt had to sell his daughter to keep out of debt a kind old man threw gold in thru the chimney it fell into a stocking so now children hang up a stocking find a tangerine in the toe the gold