

AND WE ONLY WHISPER

She sits on my right knee,
He on my left.
She is two
He is six

She pushes her nose into his,
He pushes back.
They laugh
We all laugh

We sing a song
She starts,
He joins in,
I hum the backing
And soon
We are laughing again

Jewels of winter sun
Are gleaming in her hair
Wands of light and frost-fresh air
Are licking round us
My knee hurts
And he says
Are you alright, Mum

Then outside a dog barks
Downstairs, a bell rings
Someone shouts anybody home

But the floor is warm
And up here,
In the eerie of our song,
We say no thank-you
We chant no thank-you
We catch the sun in our fingers
And wrap the soft haze of it around us
And we pretend we are one ball

And we only whisper