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# Variations on a Theme

**Joe Blankenship**  
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a kiss with you  
changes  
the outlook I brought with me  
the gardens

brought rain with them  
and growth made  
skin a wonder      leaves  
kept their distances  
the green eyes  
singing

that flowers will always touch  
the uncertain minutes  
and suggest you feel  
completeness  
or death in a single

deep breath off a rose  
the same life in your lips  
I breathe

thinking this is my season