

Edward Thomas

Some Eyes Condemn

Some eyes condemn the earth they gaze upon:
Some wait patiently till they know far more
Than earth can tell them: some laugh at the whole
As folly of another's making; one
I knew that laughed because he saw, from core
to rind, not one thing worth the laugh his soul
had ready at waking: some eyes have begun
With laughing; some stand startled at the door.

Others, too, I have seen rest, question, roll,
Dance, shoot. And many I have loved watching. Some
I could not take my eyes from till they turned
And loving died. I had not found my goal.
But thinking of your eyes, dear, I become
Dumb: for they flamed and it was me they burned.

Selected Poems of Edward Thomas, ed. R.S. Thomas
London, Faber & Faber 1964:44