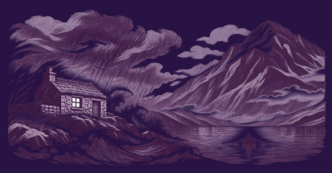
WINTER SWANS

Owen Sheers



WHAT HAPPENS? A couple's strained walk moves towards renewed closeness.

BIG IDEA **A damaged relationship can begin to repair through shared observation and a small physical movement.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

"apart"

Spatial adjective

The walk's physical arrangement embodies the couple's estrangement.

"unison"

Coordinated movement

The birds offer an image of acting together without losing individuality.

"porcelain"

Metaphor

Apparent delicacy is combined with the swans' balanced strength.

"folded"

Closing verb

The hands settle into closeness, suggesting gentleness rather than forced repair.

FORM

Six tercets followed by a final couplet; enjambment and the changed ending shape movement towards pairing.

CONTEXT

Sheers makes a wintry landscape and observable animal behaviour a means of exploring a human relationship.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Neutral Tones: contrasting outcomes.
Love's Philosophy: nature and intimacy.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

After rain

STRAINED

The couple move through a saturated environment while maintaining emotional distance.

Watching swans

TENTATIVELY HOPEFUL

Synchronised movement offers an alternative pattern of relationship.

Hands meet

QUIETLY RECONCILIATORY

Physical closeness develops before either speaker explains it.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.