

winter garden

(Giardini Pubblici, Milan, Italy, 2 Jul 85)

these lovers on the grass
he lying, she whispering next to him
about the greenness of life
the granaries full of grain
don't they see the vines curling above
arteries emptying abruptly
the dreadful arching of leaves
all around them
can't they hear the wind shrieking
the clouds to a bitter autumn
and know how soon at the window
they, too, will howl when winter comes

JEFF ROUND