

Villanelle

We are most dark and selfish when we sleep
And dive among our dreaming's moonlit lakes.
Hold tight the flame you find beneath the deep.

We trust the private nighttimes that we seek;
We must embrace our shadowed dreamed escapes.
We are most dark and selfish when we sleep.

From false to true can be no easy leap –
The day's entanglings bind us to the fake.
Hold tight the flame you find beneath the deep.

Damned dreams give blessings rarely ours to keep
Unless we taste the fruit yet kill the snake
By being dark and selfish when we sleep.

Bright coral fans and glistening fish will sweep
Along the somber paths our work lives take
If we embrace the flame beneath the deep.

Each dawn we rise in mourning, lost and meek.
Each night our dreams remain our own to make.
We must be dark and selfish when we sleep.
Flames burn in shadows there, beneath the deep.

- Del Shortliffe