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DOROTHY LIVESAY

Sorcery

My breasts are withered gourds
my skin all over stiffens
shrinks—the pubic hair
bristles to an itch

Not to be touched and swept
by your arm's force
gives me the ague
turns me into a witch

O engineer of spring!
magic magic me
out of insanity
from scarecrow into girl again
then dance me toss me
catch!

Weather Forecast

O what a horn
blowing defeat
 through the bare limbs
 of trees

Tenderly
I gather a few delicate
 leaf shells
to carry into the house
for safety

It's the sixtieth year
of my life
and I discern
that spring is still
a verifiable
possibility!

(From *Collected Poems: The Two Seasons*.
Toronto: McGraw Hill Ryerson, 1972).