(the cloak)

THE MYSTERIES
(by Laurie Duggan)

Everything happens at once.
We miss most of it.
The kettle boils over
And puts out the fire.

(the boat)

TECTONICS

The land moves on so untroubled, when it moves unaware.
Floating on itself it hears its own advice;
Repeats with firmness that endless escape
from its constant motions.

Cradled within, a magma flow yearns to mingle with air.
Pressures faulting over time do not suffice;
They only trouble the accrued landscape
with their blank eruptions.

Troubled figures gesture, but just uncover heated air.
Agile fingers cover holes with melting ice;
Circulating one and all ride that gape
of dissolving motions.

But let that igneous pacific, itself, be my share.
Indigents may pay the complemental price;
My shape where you once shaped or once will shape
bestows benedictions.

The land moves on so untroubled, when it moves on aware.
Floating on its selves it hears its own advice;
Repeats its fullness as the endless shape
of its constant motions.
Tell all the Truth but tell it slant  
(by Emily Dickinson)

Tell all the Truth but tell it slant  
Success in Circuit lies.  
Too bright for our infirm Delight  
the Truth’s superb surprise,  
As Lightning to the Children eased  
With explanation kind  
The truth must dazzle gradually  
Or every man be blind.

THE CLOAK, THE BOAT, AND THE SHOES  
(by W. B. Yates)

‘What do you make so fair and bright?’

‘I make the cloak of Sorrow:  
O lovely to see in all men’s sight  
Shall be the cloak of Sorrow,  
In all men’s sight.’

‘What do you build with sails for flight?’

‘I build a boat for Sorrow:  
O swift on the seas all day and night  
Saileth the rover Sorrow,  
All day and night.’

‘What do you weave with wool so white?’

‘I weave the shoes of Sorrow:  
Soundless shall be the footfall light  
In all men’s ears of Sorrow,  
Sudden and light.’