**\_\_\_\_RITA DOVE\_\_\_\_**

**DEMETER’S PRAYER TO HADES**

 **This alone is what I wish for you: knowledge.**

 **To understand each desire and its edge,**

 **to know we are responsible for the lives**

 **we change. No faith comes without cost,**

 **no one believes without dying.**

 **Now for the first time**

 **I see clearly the trail you planted,**

 **what ground opened to waste,**

 **though you dreamed a wealth**

 **of flowers.**

 **There are no curses, only mirrors**

 **held up to the souls of gods and mortals.**

 **And so I give up this fate, too.**

 **Believe in yourself,**

 **go ahead—see where it gets you.**