**\_\_\_\_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.**