

The poet Louise Glück has just been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature

THE GARDEN

The garden admires you.
For your sake it smears itself with green pigment,
The ecstatic reds of the roses,
So that you will come to it with your lovers.

And the willows -
See how it has shaped these green
Tents of silence. Yet
There is still something you need,
Your body so soft, so alive, among the stone animals.

Admit that it is terrible to be like them,
Beyond harm.

Louise Glück



Louise Glück



Louise Glück being presented with the 2015 National Humanities award by President Obama

The American poet Louise Glück has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for “her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”.

She is the 16th woman to win the prize, and the first American woman since Toni Morrison was given it in 1993.

The 77-year-old writer has won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. The themes of her poems include childhood and family life, often reworking Greek and Roman myths. “We look at the world once, in childhood,” she has said. “The rest is memory.”

The Irish novelist Colm Tóbin says of her, “It is difficult to think of another living poet whose voice contains so much electrifying undercurrent, whose rhythms are under such control, but whose work is also so exposed and urgent.”