

Sonder

'sɒn dər / sohn-dehrr

noun.

the feeling one has on realizing that every other individual
one sees has a life as full and complex as one's own.

Mordere Malum

Alyssa Vora

A tree stands in the middle of the field
Swathes of grass, uncut, untouched, kiss
The base of its bark, weathered, worn, extends into
Branches branching outwards, broad and brittle, silent and strong
Into leaves swaying softly, a whispered waltz in the wind
An apple dangles daringly, succulent centre
Encased in a waxy red sheen.

And then a boy appears in the middle of the field
Treading, trampling, tearing, he makes his way to the tree
The branches begin to bend, bracing for what's to come
The leaves begin to wither, panting, praying, pleading with the sun
But the boy only sees the apple, his face cleaving into a grin
He needs no snake to tempt him
It slithers within.

Purge

Alyssa Vora

They passed through there... and the poor believed
Salvation would be served by souls tainted with greed
Broken, brown teeth held up by a slender, skeletal frame
A puppet pulled by strings, a pitiful pawn in the game
Paradise was promised, and it has arrived
Lush jungles of concrete, exotic metal birds that fly
Smoke surveys the sky, it seeps into their bones
Yet they bow, bend, burn for those with gilded, golden homes
They passed through there... and the poor believed
The clenched fists that chained them would set them free