

REQUIEM FOR A DOLL

ELLIE WHITE

May every dress be your favorite midnight
blue, every collar and cuff loose

as an old headband, each shoe nestled gently
with its mate. I wish you a house of fresh cedar,

a set of bone china and shelf upon shelf of lilac tea.
May every sugar lump be oversized, each spoon

fit especially for your hands, each cookie
and biscuit a different flavor of lemon.

May your hair never need brushing, your eyes
keep their starry gleam, your cheeks

be forever slightly flushed. I wish you a kindle
of soft-pawed kittens, a flight of Luna moths,

a pair of small warm hands
that will never set you down.