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Leaves

Ian Caws

Leaves, jammed in the heating system, crackle Quickly in the draught, fragile as my prayers. They will be powder soon. An old fan roars At me, eager for warmth, and leaves wriggle A cobweb on the grill but can't cajole It into opening. I know this is A heat that hunts me to the end, that dries, Never comforts the leaves and me at all.

Time was, I could mount any particle And ride it to the centre. That was when I was not lost in these ducts. Natural Air buoyed the green leaves and the words were mine Yet were not. See now, my prayers, wafer frail My desire heady, heady as the wine.