

## Your Reply

Frances Quinlan

Somebody wrote "tender" in the novel's margins  
As if to remind about a precious force  
In the next paragraph the protagonist  
Sat down on the belly of a...  
Dead horse

The author I read fell from a window  
Many stories high  
Stretching out to feed pigeons  
Or a stray cat depending on the...  
Website

Whether or not I have  
Or was given a little more time  
There just doesn't seem to be much room  
For a reply  
And it's possible it only belongs  
Where it happened, fine  
According to John  
Fear softens into doubt  
To what do I cling and think is mine, no  
Reply

"Think the last time I came up this way I was younger"  
Said your aunt, isn't it a good line?  
We found the garden abandoned  
And that night became dark over...  
Chicken and wine

Documentarians tossing lemmings  
Stunned over the edge  
Wartime juveniles shot and martyred  
For the crime of...  
Stealing eggs  
Dinner, by the way, was divine

I drank the last of the coffee  
Waiting for you to rise

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