**Prayer To A Jacaranda (after seeing ‘Wolf Creek’** *by Judy Durrant*

jacaranda––lay your mauve-blue bells upon me

as you do the svelte grass

carpet me like a dead body in your dappled-light runnels

– but first

cause gum nuts to swell (in a car boot if you will

that a seed might burst open to crack

merck's cryptic on page 47

roll out cranium's treason all set in plain text

for those of us suffering––brain extraction

or the distraction of a knife in the spine

jack me a hammer to nut out the shell

that almost jekyll and hyde material

that flicks from dull brown to a self-preening

greening putrescence (at the twist of a wrist

tumbleweed’s jagged stars––dashed across highways

by prevailing winds before oncoming cars

––will know the propelled to near-fatal odyssey

the vertiginous permanent crumplectomy

the watery turfed-out nefariously

of your hue-skirted blues (before you can even say ‘boo!’

so free those captives of blinding ‘a-tchoo!’

jump them free from collision

a two-second’s indecision a three-day hiatus

– an extortionist's ransom

of limpid black jewel from the dark well’s stash

in the safe box of mauve echeveria––will be theirs

[then steeped though they are – in the soft pad of footsteps

in their corridor––i’ll make sure

their starkly awoken deep-sleeping depths

are relieved by the dog’s breath deceiving]

– only let me

no longer dwell on the rot laid open

in a storm-felled elm

on bougainvillea’s butterfly bracts – lying tipped

in a wake where magenta and tracery swim

send a swami – to feather-down me in turban

shroud a five-year-old’s tantrum

(red faced and eye popped //

but turn––normality’s simulacrum

calm demeanour unnerving

back to its flip side where kidnapped and terrified

the mind’s thin-glass brink harbours warm-blooded feeling

to where it lies shattered with empathy shivering

raise me neophyte noise

(albeit foot stomp and screaming

from the mire of its burial – its mysterious un-being

from the bromide of alchemy's dearth

let me hug the sobbing––

from three foot six

above earth…