

Two of the 24 poems in
"Waiting to Know and Other Poems"
by Wendy Helms

WAITING TO KNOW

If this is only one
of many lives
that I have lived before
and am to live again
beyond my death,
then I need have no fear,
for I have seen
the unremembered
space between
existences,
that waiting place
where souls
repose
in timelessness.

If I have never lived before . . .

For Walborg Gunning, 1947-1999

GROWTH

Ninety days gestation - only ninety days
between the diagnosis and the termination of your life.
Patiently expectant, you were not afraid.
You even joked about the marvel of conception
at the age of seventy-five. You stroked
your swelling body, smiled a secret smile and said:
"It hasn't quickened yet", while under your caressing
hand that formless, lethal life was spreading
silently where once I grew beneath your heart.

The night before you died I had a vivid dream . . .