

The Lark

by Alexandra Lee

(upon hearing Calvin Dyck's performance of "The Lark Ascending" by Ralph Vaughn Williams)

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little brown bird
eye-catching you are not
(though fly-catching, you may be)
silent, you are unnoticed, un-swooned

no emerald mallard necktie
or ruby-robed cardinal
no houndstooth checkered loon
or flashy redwing sleeves
no flicker of elegant Burberry
or elaborate pileated headdress

humble brown bird
softly you reveal your song
trilling cuts the dark
open throated
Night weakens at the knees
your voice cracks dawn
blossoming greetings
for each aspiring petal
and Hope alights

modest brown bird
you need not impress
through fancy dress
for who needs to turn heads
when you can stop hearts