

Allowances

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Allow a favourite child
Favourite poem or ballet
Favoured lie to yourself
Favoured time of day

Allow a favourite place
Perhaps the Alps, perhaps Karoo
Vote for weather that thunders
Or temperate blue

Favourite painting?
Mine, *Las Meninas* of course
Who cares how predictable
If the perfect choice

Most prized plant?
Brunfelsia at the gate
Decanting its purple bouquet
Onto grey morning slate

Though other beloveds
Are always lying in wait
Say cornflowers, Giotto
The Milky Way, day break

But you, you really are my chosen one
Duty free, no alternative, no sequel
Though they keep telling us
Favourites are disallowed, all things being equal.

