

## Cardboard Castles

Claire Hughes

We build a castle from cardboard  
and adorn it with cotton wool clouds,  
plastic jewels and a tissue paper  
rainbow. The drawbridge refuses  
to lower and it sinks on one side, but it's yours,  
your kingdom. Built with our fair hands,  
it protects knights of the realm, houses  
heroes and monsters and travels through  
space and time. But one day the jewels  
will fall, the rainbow will fade and I will see  
your head emerge above the turrets and witness  
the world they want you to see.