

Mary considers her situation

by [Luci Shaw](#) in the [March 21, 2012](#) issue

What next, she wonders,  
with the angel disappearing, and her room  
suddenly gone dark.

The loneliness of her news  
possesses her. She ponders  
how to tell her mother.

Still, the secret at her heart burns like  
a sun rising. How to hold it in—  
that which cannot be contained.

She nestles into herself, half-convinced  
it was some kind of good dream,  
she its visionary.

But then, part dazzled, part prescient—  
she hugs her body, a pod with a seed  
that will split her.