

JANE LEVIN

COMPLEXITY

I

Like intertwining grape vines
 forgetting and remembering
 are rooted together
 juicy fruit indistinguishable
 whether from terror or joy
 I wrestle the branches apart

Desperate to forget

Sterile white uniforms
 speak apologies
 for needles spurting astrobright chemicals
 I offer up my bruised and punctured arm

A volcano of nausea builds, gathers speed
 crashes into a cave of unconsciousness
 I am

 three weeks
 of darkness

Desperate to remember

Mosaic monarchs
 needle-noses suck up sweet orange nectar
 Ascend on their
 three week journey
 of light

II

Two branches

we struggle to put our bodies together

Judy wants me

 without hair
 breasts
 hope

 without anything to give but my gratitude

L'Chaim