

Half-Life

A thing in itself always diminishes. From this:

light, heat, the order of matter burning into more matter.

The radium atom in particular proves unstable and thus produces

tiny blue lights, which is not unlike a view of the world from above

in satellite. In the damp laboratory at night, and for their enjoyment,

Pierre and Marie dance among ramshackle benches and glowing

bulbs of glass. Flame stutters: a question in the lamp.

Their fingers soon turn black with the burns of their work.

In this they know that what they study is the chemistry of perdition.

That the source of the light in the world is the world's demise.

Marie figures the days left of its hazard and its blessing.