

***'This is Winter, This is Night, Small Love'***

***(Sylvia Plath)***

Though thrilled by the immensity  
of nights around the solstice  
by the many suns of the coming Christmas morning  
that Orion is to reign  
unchallenged all through winter

the time at its shadowy heart indoors is small  
perfect as a candle's perfect  
for a moment then begins to stutter  
wax melting down its cheeks  
as it tries and tries to stand tall

for this is winter, this is night, small love.

Judy Gahagan