

A  
Year of  
Nature  
Poems



WIDE EYED EDITIONS

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# August

Scrumping is the practice of stealing fruit from someone else's trees. The word originates from the English 'scrimp', which means 'withered apple'.

*The tree by the caged football pitch  
was pear.*


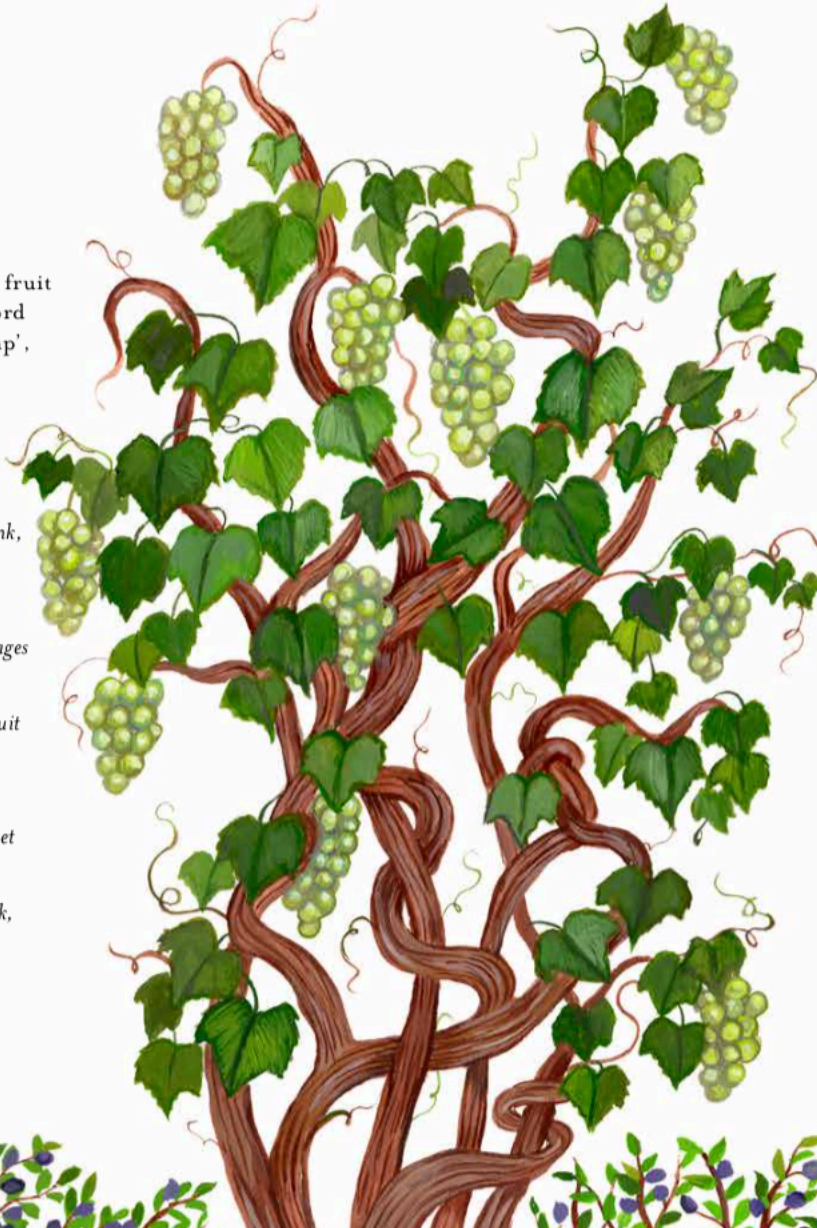
*Only two of us dare shimmy its giant trunk,  
attempt its weighted crown.*

*The spider branches at the side of the garages  
held plum.*

*We could all reach their bitter squidge fruit  
perfect for spinning throws.*

*The vines that soured the side of the street  
were grape.*

*The green stones more trophy than snack,  
snatched before the owners saw us.*



*The nuns garden was a reliquary of  
Bramleys, their fruit larger than our heads.  
I climbed the ivy-scarred wall  
with guilty knees whilst my disciples watched,  
mouths dripping pear and plum blood.*

*The shadow nuns flitting in the  
orchard light as I slithered  
from trunk to trunk  
past apples, each bigger than the one before,  
none big enough.*

*The warning shouts of my cocktail friends  
had me running with empty hands  
past unmade crumbles and unbaked tarts,  
legs losing their juice.*

*The wall I'd climbed down, now a tower.  
The ivy supports crumbed to salt.*

*I got out by the grace of sticky fingers,  
and thick skins and friendship that had scrumped.*



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