Elizabeth Swados

Judgment

I never said no,
never really said no.
Not to the men
even with their stubble
and their bellies.
Not to the women
with sour wine on their breath.
It was a time when I believed
the Gods were watching me
and “no” to a lover
was spit on a huge holy foot.
Now I say no all the time
except there’s no one there.
So my God theory
has never actually been tested
and I still live as if
the lever is in his hands.