

Craig W. Steele

Optimism Blues

Long after sunlit skies have fallen,
I retreat within a field of words to
listen to the drone of distant wheels
resolved upon their journeys to wherever,
to count faint stars embellishing a
velvet shroud, to lament the death of
equal handshakes, the many lives survived
behind close-curtained panes or
in their worlds of mirrors.
And I wonder: Is there anyone who
dares become a rose blooming
in this snow-garden?

When not writing poetry, **Craig W. Steele** is a professor of biology at Edinboro University in northwestern Pennsylvania. In his quest to become a widely-published unknown poet, his poems have appeared in numerous anthologies, literary journals and magazines, most recently in *The Lyric*, *Jellyfish Whispers*, *Mused: the BellaOnline Literary Review* and *Word Fountain: The Literary Magazine of the Osterhout Free Library*, and he continues to write monthly poetry as “The Writer’s Poet” for *Extra Innings* online.