

## Steve Klepetar

### Playing Catch

I toss the ball to you and you toss it back  
as if it were some argument constructed  
for the pure pleasure of debate, this back-  
and-forth played out on the smooth grass.  
How I love the angle of your response,  
that sharp twist that brings the ball back  
from its wide path to my waiting hand.  
“Consider this,” you seem to say,  
brown eyes burning into mine.  
A small door opens.  
Now it’s a cave sparkling with jewels  
hung from the ceiling, a multicolored  
profusion of lights illuminating a hundred  
new paths down into the depths of things.

**Steve Klepetar** has recently relocated to the Berkshires after 36 years in Minnesota. His work has appeared widely in the U.S. and abroad, and has received several nominations for Best of the Net and the Pushcart Prize, including three in 2017. Recent collections include *A Landscape in Hell*, *Family Reunion*, *How Fascism Comes to America* and *Why Glass Shatters*.