

Bridge of Sighs

DON KUNZ

One wrong turn
(For which Venice is famous)
And she is standing on the Rialto Bridge.

But, being lost, she imagines
She is afloat on the Bridge of Sighs,
A prisoner's path to punishment.

Like those felons she has read about,
She takes a last look at the world
She has sentenced herself to leave.

Sagging into ruin, Venice hangs above her,
The architecture of her life scattered
Like snapshots across the dark water below.

She wears the weight of 76 years
Like an iron mask at Carnivale.
If she were stronger, she might revel.

Through the gathering night,
Bird flutter, swallow swoop
To the other side of life,

Not simply jump from this bridge
Through the open window
Of her reflection.