

prologue

a lover's kiss

should be able to break
the coldest of spells

but can it restore
what has been lost?

or will she always be the girl
who perished half a castle
the day she learnt to walk?

i) exile

a mother's will

heartbeat faltering
breath quick fading

the lovelorn queen offered
her just-born daughter

the only protection
she could –

a sprig of frost-flowers hastily
pressed to the baby's breast

willed the frozen crystals
to shimmer and grow

held on
till diamond dust
hazed the moonlight

from her father

the gift of indifference –

so lightly given

so impossible to accept

