

*abnegation to care for these obstreperous termagential, har-
ridanistic viragoes? Must I, who have studied so diligently
and long become an obsequious adulatory gardener for these
fleshy vegetables?*

I'll have a prescription filled for you, Mrs. Chalupsky.
We'll get some salve and bandages for your sores and some
pills for your lungs and heart. I'll have Mrs. Kvidera give
you the pills morning and night. Good-bye, Mrs. Chalupsky.
I'll see you in two weeks. Yes, that's it. Morning and night.

Night-Blooming Cereus

by Tessie Pappas

Beauty alone redeems your vain abandon.
Cup-shaped translucence
Suspended on a spindly tendril:
Bloom of my labor;

I watched you tenderly,
Suckled you with patience,
Nourished you with my thirst.

Weary of the long days, anxious for the coming,
I waited.
Now you emerge
With sparing explanations;
Too fragile to contain the gratitude
I merit.

Beauty alone redeems your vain abandon.

