

Vulnerability herself
once had a shield-
impenetrable, irrefutable
irresistible, seemingly callused enough

Those who admired
could not avoid envy
those who sought
slain without mercy

Her shield was stolen
a thief, cunning
a thief, enticing
a thief
a

Yet
without her shield
Vulnerability remains

Our journey together is
not for the faint hearted
Yet it is those who court
Naïveté
who bask in the strength

Vulnerability's strength
in her illustrious state
dances with her,
ponders quite fondly

only those who have sought both, loved both, and suffered for both
have seen the shield, have held the shield, have broken the shield