

our light . our lot  
new song—  
unknot  
we sigh  
heartstrung  
drawn taut  
deadlines  
a dash  
a dot  
resigned  
we ask

6.

our plight . our plot  
you're home—  
one thought  
we find  
headstrong  
we bought  
headlines  
held fast  
uncaught  
aligned  
abashed

5.

forthright . forthought  
our hope—  
unknot  
we sigh  
headstrong  
in knots  
headlines  
at last  
a dot  
still blind  
we thrash

4.

starbright . starbrought  
you're home—  
we sought  
in time  
a bond  
in knots  
guidelines  
unmatched  
we ought  
still blind  
typecast

3.

#### ABOUT THESE POEMS:

The curtal sonnet, invented by Gerard Manley Hopkins, is a 3/4 Petrarchan sonnet with each stanza proportionately shortened: the octave becomes a sestet, the sestet a quatrain with an extra tail.

In March 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nick Montfort published "Sonnet Corona," a tiny program that can generate a crown of 3<sup>14</sup> or 4,782,969 potential sonnets. Its 14 monometer lines evoke the enclosure and uncertainty of the early lockdown.

"Curt Curtal Sonnet Corona" uses Montfort's code to generate 4<sup>11</sup> or 4,194,304 curtal sonnets. The abbreviated form felt appropriate to both this little booklet and to my feelings about this moment at the end of a very difficult year, but one illuminated by hope, as my son, due in January 2021, decided he couldn't wait and was born in mid-December. These poems are dedicated to Dorothea and Dashiell, with gratitude to Nick and to QPL. The code that generated these 6 exemplars is freely available at: [amaranthborsuk.com/curtalcorona](http://amaranthborsuk.com/curtalcorona).

# CURT CURTAL SONNET CORONA

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For Quarantine Public Library  
December, 2020

1.

we ask  
in mind  
one shot  
a dash  
deadlines  
for naught

so long  
we sigh  
fine wrought  
our hope—  
starbright . starbrought

2.

we thrash  
resigned  
uncaught  
held fast  
fault lines  
drawn taut

so long  
entwined  
one thought  
keep on—  
our light . our lot

