

For survivors of abuse and trafficking residing at Thistle Farms in D.C.

Thistle

Beloved of butterfly. Tint of twilight. In the language of flora—

she is Regal. Sometimes called Spear or Welled or Blessed—

sometimes Melancholy or Milk. She is every third grade girl

tying her shoes—all knee bone & chin sharp. As tincture, she cures

buboes & baldness, stone & gravel. As warrior bloom,

she defends the tribe of tartaned folk with her fierce burrs.

Then we kneed her into heel & shin. She is Soft & Clean, a Delectable

Heart—centerpiece of sustenance & no weed. O, taste of celery. Herb of witch.

In *War & Peace*, she is the finale field. The constant, gorgeous

best of us. The eyes of us, the thriving