

*Carolyn McCurdie*

## **Intrinsic**

For Christmas, the staff at the mall  
ordered three trees. They grouped them  
by the supermarket entrance, and over  
the branches looped tiny white lights.  
Nothing more.

Tall, dark, austere,  
they spoke of forest,  
of starlight,  
of stillness.

**Carolyn McCurdie's** poetry has appeared previously in *Deep South*, and in *Takahe*, *Bravado*, *Poetry NZ*, and the *Otago Daily Times*. Her children's novel *The Unquiet* was published in 2006 by Longacre Press.