



10-1-1986

## Forbidden Glass

Cara Bullinger

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>



Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Bullinger, Cara (1986) "Forbidden Glass," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 26 : Iss. 4 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol26/iss4/10>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

## Forbidden Glass

A young woman peers into the glass case  
 At the wooden coffin lid of Isis.  
 The exhibit catalog says Isis is  
 Wife of Kha-bekhnet, son of Sen-nedjem.  
 There are painted lines for the folds of her gown,  
 Two round knobs in the lobes of her ear.  
 Her painted hands clasp a cluster  
     Of swirled green lines and bell shapes,  
     Enhanced, of course, by the gown's whiteness.

The carefully groomed guide requests  
 That the visitors should please not touch  
 The glass of the display cases.

The young woman passes on to see the golden geese  
     Whose backs are set with lapis lazuli.  
 They turn their necks to gaze behind them.  
 Carved in the bottom of a blue bowl, a fish swims.  
 A girl walks lightly among the lilies of the Nile.  
 Folds in her linen gown round over her breasts and thighs.  
 She wears two gold pieces in her ears,  
 And in her hands she carries hollyhocks.  
 To die so young like a yearling goose  
     Slaughtered on the temple altars of Ra,  
 To live as a swan bending its neck among the lilies.

The young woman returns to see Isis.  
 She leans near, placing a hand on the glass.

—Cara Bullinger