Cuckoo – Ted Hughes

The Cuckoo’s the crookedest, wickedest bird.

His song has two notes, but only one word.

He says to the Linnet: ‘Your eggs look so ill!

Now I am the Doctor, and here is my pill.’

Within that pill, the Cuckoo-child

Crouches hidden, wicked and wild.

He burst his shell, and with weightlifter’s legs

He flings from the nest the Linnet’s eggs.

Then bawls to the Linnet: ‘Look at me, Mam!

How quickly I’ve grown, and how hungry I am!’

She thinks he is hers, she is silly with joy.

She wears herself bare for the horrible boy.

Till one day he burps, with a pitiless laugh,

‘I’ve had enough of this awful Caf!’

And away he whirls, to Cuckooland,

And leaves her to weep with a worm in her hand.