

HELEN MOORE

American Rose

For N

A Rose you admire, white, mystical,
dewed with *aldicarb, tedion, bravo* –

how could angels ever live
in this realm of matter

where mostly all we touch
is branded by the devil?

A United Nations' International Labor Organization study in 2000 showed that 60 % of rose workers in Ecuador suffered from headaches, blurred vision, muscular twitching and other symptoms of pesticide poisoning. Ecuador is a major exporter of roses to the US, especially around Valentine's Day.