

Narcissus and Echo

from *Echo Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths*

By Marilyn Singer

"Here,
here . . . "
Was
that
a nymph?
Was
that
an echo?
Leave me,
foolish pursuer!
I will forever be the
only
one
that
I desire—
the most beautiful of youths—
a flower among men

A flower among men!
The most beautiful of youths!
I desire
that
one
only.
I will forever be the
foolish pursuer.
Leave me,
an echo
that
was
a nymph,
that
was
here.
"Here . . . "

Narcissus was a vain young man. He spurned the young woman, Echo, who loved him. She was turned into just a mournful sound—an echo. He fell in love with his reflection in a pond, wasted away, and was transferred into a flower.

