

**JENNIFER ATKINSON**

**Canticle of Francis and the Wolf at Gubbio**

Once upon a hill, a shepherd long and far away and a wolf of what big  
teeth and slaver lived alike on lamb, lamb bone, and stars

O they sang to the wax and wane, O to the glaring full

Then comes drought, comes famine. Then snarls the wolf; the shepherd  
gnaws the gnawed bone then. O they cry to the wane and wane

So the stranger waves his hand: so rain, so corn. Sheep fat with twins,  
one born for the shepherd live, for the wolf one stillborn

O they sang to the wax and wane, O to the ever after full