Anna Akhmatova

"The 21st…"

Translated by
Julia Embody

The lines of the capital in mist.
An idler did once say,
That love on earth exists.

And from laziness or dull situation
All believed and lived thus:
Waiting for dates and fearing separation
And singing songs of love.

The secret is discovered by some,
And silence passes over them…
This, by accident, I stumbled upon,
All seems ill since then.