

# Color Coded

Grace Bauer

## *Ode to Pink*

If the baby's a girl,  
they swaddle her in this –  
a marker of gender  
that's too hot to miss.

## *Ode to Blue*

If the baby's a boy,  
this color will do,  
though no one really wants  
their son to be blue.

## *Ode to Gray*

Fashion advice decrees  
it will bring out the green  
of your eyes, but only if  
we're talking shirts – not skies.

## *Ode to Black*

Basic. Slimming. Sinister.  
Supermodel. Minister.

## *Ode to White*

Fuck all the virgins  
in love with their purity.  
Just like most whores,  
they'll end up in obscurity.

## *Ode to Red*

Poinsettias, cardinals,  
and politician's wives,

polka dots  
of blood on the counter –  
your own dull knives.

## *Ode to Purple*

Color of royalty.  
Color of passion.

Alice Walker's favorite.

It's always in fashion.

## *Ode to Orange*

Rhymes with nothing  
For no good reason.  
I've heard it's the new black,  
The hit of the season.

## *Ode to Brown*

Solid ground, tree's rough bark,  
feather of wren and meadowlark,  
fur of mouse, moose, rabbit, bear –  
color found most everywhere.

Life in drab's more common than sin.

When you can't run for cover,  
it's best to blend in.

## *Ode to Plaid*

It combines many colors –  
that's certainly true,  
but unless you're a Scotsman,  
it's best to eschew.

## *Ode to Gr(e)(a)y Update*

Some spell with e's  
Some spell with a's  
Either way, as a color  
It's pretty neutral in its ways

But if Grey's a pervy boss  
And you a willing maid  
Both of you should remember  
To always pull down the shades.