

# May I Trouble You

by [Cristina Nehring](#) (June 2024)



Flock of Geese– Elizabeth Nourse, 1883

**May I trouble** you  
with a burst of enthusiasm  
this evening? I just  
thought how sweet,  
how singular, how fine,  
and bold you are.  
It's like a flock of birds  
passing close overhead:  
they make such  
Happy Commotion.  
Not that they're ever far,  
the birds of my delight;  
but tomorrow they may  
sort themselves into  
their respective nests,  
all orderly and muted.  
Tonight, they are aflutter,

and they sing, my dear, for you.

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**Cristina Nehring** published *The Child Who Never Spoke: 23 1/2 Lessons in Fragility* on October 24, 2023. She is also the author of *A Vindication of Love* which made the front page of the *New York Times Book Review* as well as two books in French. She writes for *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She lives in Paris with her daughter.

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