

Kundera's "Black Flower"

In his novel "Immortality"
Kundera digresses briefly
to illustrate how fragile life
may interrupt immortal art:
a news report of a girl
who seeking suicide crouched
in the path of oncoming cars—
these, frantically avoiding her,
crashed in the ditch from which
arose screams of the injured—
and some were killed, but not she
who denied her death rose
and slipped away.

After this news
the author returned reluctant
to his desk, bowed beneath
death's onrushing motor, yet
still he wrote and slipped away . . .

Michael Thorpe