

## Charlie Gracie

Three things about growing fruit

When a gooseberry bush suffers  
poor soil  
disease  
weather-threat  
young berries begin to waste  
or tumble  
to the hard earth.

When a young gooseberry  
clings to a withered stalk  
it too will shrivel  
from lack of sustenance.

If a young gooseberry falls  
the fall itself makes the flesh hurt:  
rain pounds  
beasties nibble  
rots begin.

And we  
we bring young berries in  
place them in sunlight  
on soft surfaces.  
We give time for flesh to sweeten  
give love for skin to heal.

And what to do for  
poor soil  
disease  
weather-threat  
so gooseberries can thrive?

## About the poet

Charlie Gracie grew up in Baillieston, Glasgow. His first poetry collection, *Good Morning*, was published in 2010 by diehard, who will also publish his second collection in autumn 2019. His first novel, *To Live With What You Are*, was published in 2019 by Postbox Press. Charlie has been a social worker for over 30 years and is a CELCIS Associate. He now lives on the edge of the Trossachs.

[www.charliegracie.scot](http://www.charliegracie.scot)