White Jack

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White Jack
(1/10/2007- 4/4/2020)

1.

Jacky wobbles, noses
the grass, foliage, flowers
like a bumble bee,
then falls away,
a puff of white dandelion.

2.

What was the world like before snow,
before going to different shelters to find a dog,
settling on white, light, fluffy?

3.

The security guard says, “Stay safe”
as I leave the grocery store.
Yes, stay safe, don’t love, don’t look,
don’t watch the black poodle sprinting across the park
and licking his companion’s face,
don’t look at the French bulldog in the purple bow tie
bringing her ball like an ambassador to each distanced human,
don’t look at the golden retriever sauntering with the lone child,
her tail lowered to half-mast.
Stay safe, don’t get a dog.
don’t go to a shelter, don’t enter a pet store,
look at the balls, frisbees, food bowls, carriers, beds.