

Dulcet Tones¹

So it's okay to want to take it slow;
It doesn't start till you awake (the day) –
For when you're here, there is no place to go.

I used to watch the news – they say they know
The where and how and why (but who are “they”?) –
So it's okay to need to take it slow.

Because it does, in fact, come down to you
And how (well) two against keeps “them” at bay,
Know when you're here, there is no place to go.

They – people on the outside – wonder, “How?
Is there some secret?” (to your gentle way?)
So it's okay to like to take it slow.

I laugh at them, who so compelled to do,
They can not (will not?) sit back and be gay
'Cause when you're here, there is no place to go.

I've used this end-rhyme once before, I know
(Still, for their pardon I won't deign to pray):
'Cause it's okay to love to take it slow
And now you're here.

There is no place to go.

¹ This villanelle uses the end words alternately from “Do Not Go Gentle” (Dylan Thomas) and “The Waking” (Theodore Roethke). My inverse version is “Load Up.”