The Hill

By Joshua Mehigan

On the crowded hill bordering the mill, across the shallow stream, nearer than they seem, they wait and will be waiting.

Rain. The small smilax is the same to the fly as the big bush of lilacs exploding nearby. The rain may be abating.

On the quiet hill beside the droning mill, across the dirty stream, nearer than they seem, they wait and will be waiting.

The glass-eyed cicada drones in the linden draped like a tent above three polished stones. Aphids swarm at the scent of the yellow petals.

A bird comes to prod a clump of wet fur. The ferns idiotically nod when she takes it away with her. Something somewhere settles.

On the crowded hill bordering the mill is our best cemetery, pretty, but not very. All are welcome here.

Sun finds a bare teak box on the tidy green plot. It finds lichen-crusted blocks fringed with forget-me-not. Angels preen everywhere.

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Source: Poetry (February 2010)