

EVALYN LEE

Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage

At six a.m.
A bank of dark blue
Clouds lie bruised
And stacked
On the horizon
Like headless corpses
Come to rest
Against the skin
Of a new day:
Has the city of Kobane fallen?

The thick walls
Of the lighthouse keepers'
Cottage block out
The Internet.
The news is like
The morning moon
Invisible
But compelling.
Did the tide turn
In Kobane?

I open my window
To hear the sea
But the outside wall
Is a blanket
Of bluebottles.
They invade the room.
I close the window
And make it worse
Trapping flies
Between the sill and the frame.

A desperate sound
Shakes the glass
As flies cling
To the view:
A lighthouse eye
which rotates
And fractures the sky.
A moor pony,
At the base, eats grass,
A hungry shadow.

I take a towel
Try not to crack
Crisp black bodies
As I set each fly free.
It takes
Time.
I sit down
To silence
And pray
For the Kurds of Kobane.

EVALYN LEE is a former CBS News producer currently living in London. She has produced television segments for *60 Minutes* in New York and the BBC in London. Her work has appeared in: *Letting Go: An Anthology of Attempts*, ed. Martha Hughes; *Hawai'i Pacific Review*; *Broad River Review 2016*; *Amarillo Bay*; *Diverse Arts Project*; *The Penman Review*; *Saint Anne's Review*; *Schuylkill Valley Journal of the Arts*; *Stickman Review*; and *Willow Review*.