

## Take Your Choice

*A Federation of Writers Scotland Patchwork Poem for National Poetry Day 2021*

Where wid I be goin the day if I hud the chance tae choose?  
There's a bus route that goes round all the roads not taken,  
arrives and leaves in the same moment,  
doors opening and shutting.  
I like simple straight lines,  
a one-way ticket to a new world  
- *is that to the outskirts or the city centre?* –  
two options, one the same as the other,  
a revolving door you can't slam.  
I travel with words of my choice,  
the delicate pull and tug of tales  
written on my palms in red ink.

Leave the city, head for the shore.  
The seafront glistened, wild,  
one hot July afternoon,  
children on the sand, waving,  
tenacious as a morning moon,  
pale on those jig-together rocks.  
I jumped into the blue of water, the sky,  
a midnight within a midnight,  
*feuch dè thraoghadh leis an làn*  
wondering at what would be beached by the tide.

We missed the bus and the bomb.  
You could not look me in the eye,  
stared straight ahead, ignored what was being said,  
restive hands unclenching.  
Now I polish your ghost for the kids,  
holding earth in my hands;  
sometimes I don't know why.

As bad as this must sound to you,  
we're all the same, fair game  
in these crooked sanctums.  
This is not the Wild West  
where logic might not find its place,  
none of us are any better/worse/less.  
Those are the rules, right?

So where to go next? Who's to say.  
Grab the joy as it dissipates like smoke from the gods,  
eat the whole rainbow,  
bubbles o excitement rising.  
Deep inside a bird breaks free,  
and it's me for you and you for me.

***This poem was created  
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