

Unseen

A Federation of Writers Scotland Patchwork Poem for National Poetry Day 2020



I'd always meant, when the time came,
to feel connected, momentarily,
to a memory of place
where wanton weeds and wildflowers,
tender-wet, exposed mid sway,
are caught by the all-seeing one.
My sunflowers, ill at ease,
climb with no restriction.

A fairy flies in on a song thrush,
tìm is na sìontan gan tarraing còmhla,
time and essence pulled together.

I write in my own shadow,
booze-addled, in a late-night snack-bar,
thin and short, looking half dead,
waiting to broadcast enlightenment
with laptop and high-tech phone,
an awfie loon, but
grateful for my vision.

The moon turns her head, the evening thickens,
the stars at midnight bleeding white,
engineered by angels rouged in harlequin robes -
were I only wearing my glasses!

The fear of applying paint to a canvas;
yellow sunshine straight from a tube
like a lamp in the shadowy aisle,
glorious green, glistening,
flickers of lash-soft light -
I have always thought in colour:
if not rose-coloured, then what tone or hue?

Those eyes in the back of my mother's head
see where you've been,
know what's round the corner,
like reading into someone else's poem.
My glasses steam.
She smiles. The future looks okay.

This is not the time to build sandcastles
or rollerblade along the corridor -
there are still adventures to be written,
a journey of revelations.
Just pause, breathe in, then out,
wink – blink – think.

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