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Stone Tomatoes

MYRON HARDY, JR.

An ant up and over the hands of a man's earned bread, cares nothing about the distance from pinky to thumb. And neither does the young girl alone tossing tomatoes like pebbles from the sidewalk into the street; she takes exact aims watching them drop, split and splatter. A loose balloon tumbles where cars park in lots, dancing on air in tuck and roll momentum. The ant, quick and tireless, falls off the palm onto fossil leaves and names engraved in stone, Billy was here 01'. The little girl wasting vegetables is unashamed, unaware that she's poor; that she will grow old to write about it. The balloon tumbling still will soon burst or deflate in slow seeps. But the ant will find its way home, before its squashed by careless feet.