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The Visit

Eileen M. Ward
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The Visit

Eileen M. Ward



Early evening hovers languidly
 over the Lower Lake
 brushing light-kisses
 against the arcing ripples.

Looming Mangerton purples at the brow,
 and lake water laps
 toward the winding road to Sneem.

She has come again to his silent bed
 to feel her life's peace and beauty
 pooled now and forever
 beneath the loamy rain-rich soil.

Heedless to the gentle clicking
 of the breeze-blown beads
 against the crucifix,
 She slips into the rhythmic prayer reverie,
 mechanical, yet comforting
 perhaps because of all the decades shared
 on stone-cold floors before hissing peat fires.

Nature's life-measure has run out,
 And she must return to her child-loud home
 steeled against the sorrow-twinge awakened always
 by the empty corner.

She coaches her glance to other sectors of the room
 bidding warming consolation to be kindled
 in remembered joys of mutual life-long love.