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Green Wall

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Green Wall

Ivy-blighted, it blends
into the trees and though
tendrils would have it bend

as branches bow in winds
that call by night, though
the settling turf would

have us fix this wall, or
stone by slab unmake it,
daybreak betrays no change

to its stout rule. The oak's
many-elbowed arms will,
one day, when air and weight

have their say, touch the ground,
though we will not be here,
I should think, to see

that world's end, to watch
the garden fold these limbs
like the green wall into bed.

NICHOLAS BRADLEY is a poet, literary critic, and scholarly editor. His most recent book, *Rain Shadow*, was published by the University of Alberta Press. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia.