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# Regret

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Regret · *Maxine Kumin*

The field's no longer simple; it's  
a soul's crossing time. —Roethke

All those elusive berries  
that run like hen tracks  
through this field of daisies  
through this field of larks' nests  
paintbrush, quack grass;

all those tag ends of human  
speech the insects imitate  
hanging their odd inflected  
buzz, free-standing and misheard  
in still air over this field;

all those annulled connections  
all those missed chances  
and time running out untested  
hot and headlong like the voles'  
slim tunnels in this field

running out like summer  
into the mouths of immense frogs  
into the blowing field and leaf clatter  
calling to me and me crossing over  
as if nothing were the matter.