



Printer's Devil Review

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MERCEDES LAWRY

And You Cannot Prepare

A shout from the fog.
Echo swallowed in fear,
prickles at the neck.
The trees are dumb holy men
who've turned the corner.
Evil hums in the long night
picking its nails.
Lock and double lock
or recite prayers, what
keeps us safe is magical thinking.
It is the nature of surprise
to woo us from our warm beds.
The tragic astonishes
even as it sits on your chest
watching every bit of breath
hiss from your open mouth.