

Mark Roberts

The Office of Literary Endeavours: Maree

1.

after beginning her poem
maree set out to walk
across the mountains
to the office
of literary endeavours

unfortunately
as she crossed
a crumbling bridge
she slipped and fell
into the valley

her death
went unnoticed
except
for a small bird
and an old tree
who remembered her poem
and recited it softly
to any traveller
who passed by

2.

she had been whispering
her poem
as she crossed the bridge
and as she fell
she began to shout
the words
feeling them whipped
from her mouth
before they were formed

3.

the poem was all through her
as she lay amongst the stones
at the bottom of the valley

her mind flashed the colours
of her words a final time
brilliant hues
that dispersed
into a sunset

the poem remained
etched into her bones
as her skin fell away
the words in her fingers
toes belly and heart
dissolved into the earth
a bird pecking at her eye
took away a phrase
the wind blew away
the dust of letters