

Vivimarie VanderPoorten Medawattegedera

Grandmother Died

She died alone
in a large house
once filled with the laughter
and tears of eighteen kids
not all of them hers
but all of them his

whom she respectfully
called *Mahattaya*
he had white skin, light eyes
and brown hair
and was owner of more land
than conscience.

She died fighting
the pain
in the *mahagedera*
where she bore all his infidelities
and her nine children
normally
(when you start at fifteen
your body is supple)

She died
clutching her heart
watching communist rebels
pack up her jewelry
though what they'd really
come in search
of
was the gun.