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Outgrowing: An Equation

Abstract

Looking back, we spill from the car onto a black expanse that is not shimmering.

It is nighttime; therefore lakes and lawns are visual equivalents of homophones.

If in moonlight *Y* flings her beer, then *I* in unison flick my hair.

I is equivalent to *Y* and *Z*, milling around the shrubbery.

Cover Page Footnote

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Outgrowing: An Equation

by Ellen Kombiyil

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Only the grass is certain, certain of an equation. Only the lawn resisting shimmering refuses a replacing.

Let *I* rest against the tree, a solid that is splintering.

If night-bark furrows, then history can be shed.

Let sprinklers equal *X*, an absence that is manifest.

Now solve for bare feet glisten. Now step on constellations.

Ellen Kombiyil is a poet, writer, and writing teacher. New work can be found in *Barely South Review*, *Poemeleon*, *Redactions* and *Stone Canoe*. She is a Founding Poet of The (Great) Indian Poetry Collective (www.greatindianpoetrycollective.org), which publishes first and second books, showcasing new poetic voices from India. Originally from Syracuse, New York, and a graduate of the University of Chicago, for the past 10 years she lived in India. She currently resides in New York.