

HEATHER MACLEOD

In the Summer of Flooding

There came the frog song
in the summer of flooding;
the river rose
from the mountains melting snow
and the rain came in spring
and lasted through to autumn;
the world was wet and green.
And the frog moved over
the torn roots of trees
as they rolled down the Thompson;
the frogs sang for the rain,
and croaked out a mighty, *Hallelujah*.

I heard the choir sing
in the summer of flooding;
the cathedral rose up
from the satiated earth,
a cedar crucifix floated down
the nave and out the door;
everyone said it was a meaningful
coincidence
the way Noah's ark was recreated
in the stained glass over the vestibule.
My chestbone felt like a vaulted ceiling,
my body like a flying buttress for my soul;
the rain seeped in from the roof
and the river roared along the floor.

There came the song of toad
in the summer of flooding;
in the marsh of the hilltops he burrowed
under leaves, and he sang the river
rising just like his brother sang for rain,
and he peeled off his old skin,
to die and come again. And the river
rose while the rain fell and the frogs
sang out their noisy, *Hallelujahs*.

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Heather MacLeod's poetry appears earlier in this volume.

JULIA VAN GORDER

Way to Go

Saturday noon
wrinkled matrons take
frail mothers out for lunch
exchange
smiles of patience past
the single red carnations
in glass vases.

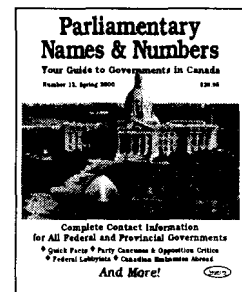
One parked next to me,
as I eased my bent mother
into the car
on the cliff above the seawall.
She was chatting to her
shoulder-belted mother,
quietly dead.

Julia van Gorder lives in Vancouver, B.C. She is working on her fifth historical novel set in Canada.

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