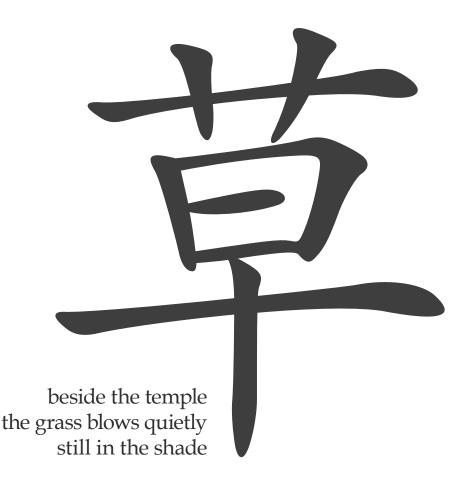


Spring Comes Suddenly

Poems by Kerry Clare

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for five Japanese seasons



(Bitchu Kokunbunji Temple, May 2004)



heat settles down in every corporeal crevice a pungent salty slick

(Himeji, June 2004)

coastal gardens bloom industry flower mushrooms on the horizon

(Himeji Sea, June 2004)





night lights flicker on the river rushing downstream drowns the city noise

(Kyoto, June 2004)



the sky is falling blackened clouds cloak the mountains spit merciless rain

(Miyajima, July 2004)



awaited typhoon pauses before the deluge hovers high instead

(Kamiya-Cho, August 2004)



soaked summer night wind hurls bits of city skyward to land where they may

(Okubo, August 2004)



big screen Buddha watch sweeping shopping masses get to the other side

(Shibuya, September 2004)



clothes move with the breeze bare thighs glimpsed indiscreetly gusty afternoon

(Himeji, September 2004)

an elephant's back tracing lines in mountain clines with lumbering grace

(Thailand, November 2004)



in the rice cooker upside down buzz flailing legs discovered cockroach

(Kitchen, December 2004)



easy swoops they fly figure-eights from the rooftop birds in afternoon

(Nara, January 2005)



(Kenninji Temple Kyoto, March 2005)



spring comes suddenly pass hanami afternoons beneath the blossoms

(Himeji Castle, April 2005)



sand's blanket stillness shattered a sudden flurry a slow scuttling crab

(Miyajima, April 2005)

さようなら

near the floating shrine atop tatami we sleep good-bye to Japan

(Miyajima, April 2005)

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Kerry Clare reads and writes in Toronto, where she lives with her husband and daughter. Her essays, short fiction and book reviews have appeared in many wonderful places, and she writes about books and reading online at her blog Pickle Me This. From 2004-2005, she lived in Himeji, Japan, and made a home there that she'll miss for always.

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