

Spring Comes
Suddenly

春

Poems
by Kerry Clare

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To Stuart,

for five Japanese seasons

草

beside the temple
the grass blows quietly
still in the shade

(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)

花

光

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

(Kyoto, June 2004)

雨

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

(Miyajima, July 2004)

台風

awaited typhoon
pauses before the deluge
hovers high instead

(Kamiya-Cho, August 2004)

夜風

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

(Okubo, August 2004)

仏

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

(Shibuya, September 2004)

太もも

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)



蟑

in the rice cooker
upside down buzz flailing legs
discovered cockroach

(Kitchen, December 2004)

鳥

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

(Nara, January 2005)

雨下

raked gravel sea waves
stillness in the garden then
first drops of rainfall

(Kenninji Temple Kyoto, March 2005)

春

spring comes suddenly
pass hanami afternoons
beneath the blossoms

(Himeji Castle, April 2005)

蟹

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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