Dent
by Kuniko Poole

...til Death seems far beyond a right.
Ivor Gurney, “The Interview”

Her scarf fell first, white, a dove.
But what descended upon us next was not
any kind of spirit.

It was her, falling like God took away the sky.

The sound of it was so ending, some of us thought
the world had slipped, switchbacking,
cobbling its way shoddily
to the Final Judgment.

But it was only she who lay there, in the overglossed
sepulcher of a United Nations sedan.

She, Madonna of the Skyscraper, we approached:
white glove twisting coquettishly at her necklace,
her feet like a goddess’s, bare.
Her eyelashes paused mid-flutter, waiting patiently for
consciousness. We watched the sun in her body
set – still, we waited for some kind of ascension. We,
the acolytes, every one of us appreciating already
the atonement she’d made:
showing us that what we wanted wasn’t immortality,
the lush-lipped divinity of mystery.

What we wanted, finally, was to walk home,
murmuring a Lord’s Prayer of trivialities, the same,
over and again.

On our walls, though, a picture glowed:
her pretty, cinematic corpse,
her plea for invisibility discarded as deftly
as was Lazarus’s.

Dirt, Uintah Basin, Utah
by Brian Cook

the nude ground pushes
it all, harrows cement—slow.
the way granite hardens.
sand dressed in weeds (spinning
like polished stones) grind
cement sky, dust strips
yellow dashes from roads, peels
brown fence posts grey. dirt also
tussles against musk thistle,
houndstongue—parched,
still digging with venomous	tendrils, stabbing
down for blood-life through
mud crack scars.

once, this land—
green—crashed against
itself, piled up, buckled,
folded. like Ouroboros, earth
devoured itself. I feel
that hunger, the ground’s pulse
pushing again, together, pushing
against it all.

Helicon West invites you to open mic nights, 7:00 PM at the Logan City Library (255 N Main in Logan) every second and fourth Thursday during USU semesters. For more information contact: starzoulbrooke@usu.edu or log onto writing.usu.edu

Art Backdrop by Kiana Poole
Edited by Brian Lee Cook