

Farming in Late Summer



Martin Willitts Jr.

3. While the crickets were penetrating silence
a whole village was being built overnight.
4. The night was ripe for a light jacket
but the amount of sweat
from yanking fieldstones
using only a lever all day
had taken its toll, and now
I stunk so bad,
the mosquitoes were driven miles away.

5. The fog bum-off singed the skin off
layers of earth on the shores
where the soybeans were clinging low
for dear life, but the snow peas
liked this weather just fine
and stood up to try to grab more of it
before it fluttered away
like exhausted, wounded birds
nabbed by the barn cat.
6. Today, at school,
the little fish learned
never to trust worms.

7. A boy, a dusty day,
a clear pond,
do not mix.
A switch and a boy
do.
8. A cardinal perched on a white fence
and a cautious barn cat.
What could go wrong?
A boy could interfere.

9. A robin building its nest
on the huge tractor wheel
realizes his error
when the tractor takes off,
and when the tractor settles down
for the night, the robin forgets
his lesson and returns
to start erecting his nest again.

2. Moonlight slid under a small wooden bridge
like the low whispers of drunken men
wobbling home
not wanting to wake up their wives
who will curse them out
for spending most of their paycheck.

1. Wisdom: a barn without a cat
is overrun by mice
nibbling in the corn.

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Every Origami micro-chapbook
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Cover: *Moon-Mystical*
by Lauri Burke

Origami Poetry Projects™

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