

the HARLEQUIN

Roseanne Watt
Haegri

for Stuart

The day you mapped your bonhogas
out for me, we saw it

curled like a question mark
at the lip of the hill –

and we'd thought it was a trick
of slud-light and lisks

before its unfolding into air,
as though hearing a call

above the swollen burn
you'd named *The Waterfall*,

beyond *The Flumes*, *The Secret Beach*,
the white stacked stones

of old stories we wish to find
some truth in. Haegri,

hillside-sentinel, what took you
from those blackened pools

you've spent lifespans watching over,
as though you were looking

for the image of some other
world within your own –

Haegri, what voice summoned you
from your post, abandoning

these places we have not yet
quite returned from

Haegri: heron; also used as a nickname for a tall, thin type of person
Bonhoga: a spiritual or childhood place
Slud: an interval between showers
Lisks: wisps

Thank you for reading! Find more at www.theharlequin.org

