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BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER by Geoffrey Morrison

BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER

Geoffrey Morrison



GEOFFREY MORRISON is a poet and critic. His poems have appeared in *Lemon Hound*, *Grain*, *PRISM*, *The Malahat Review*, and elsewhere. His criticism has appeared in *The Rusty Toque*, *The Puritan*, and *Debutantes*. With Matthew Tomkinson he is the co-author of *Archaic Torso of Gumby*, a collection of experimental short fiction forthcoming in 2020 with Gordon Hill Press. He lives on unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territory.

cover art by **FAE KILBURN**
a printmaker and arts facilitator based in Birmingham, UK, who specialises in collagraph, monoprint, linocut, woodcut and etching processes. She draws inspiration from history, disability, identity and the natural environment. Fae has a particular affinity with the Canadian landscape, having recently completed two residencies in New Brunswick.

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EXAMINATION

The herbs on the sill of daylight
are neither dying nor getting better.
It's not a metaphor. It's a patch on
an asphalt roof that never dries, a
yearly shivering of leaves from dank
trees. The bus in the lavender light of
almost dark: a man with a heavy beard
wears shorts and waits in the laundromat.

When I lived on the lowest mountain, I
walked past graduate housing in lavender
light—saw square windows lit or not like
yellow buttons in an elevator, saw
someone vacuum or take a book down
from a shelf. I would buy something
just before the cafeteria closed, sit at
my desk in the tower and write a letter,
think I was neither dying nor getting better.

BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER

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