Lucy

Robert Evory

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Lucy

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*Australopithecus afarensis*: Hominid dating back 3.2 million years

They find a femur
sticking out of the vegetable mould.

They work their way up
and work their way down
the hillside, the dry river bed,
cataloguing every part of her.

I try just as hard to find every lost and loose end
of my lover but I find myself
lost in her landscape and instead scatter
like Lucy on the hillside, the dry river bed.

I rope off my life, search memory
recycle it, turn it
like earth, extract
meager pieces of protein,
mark it on my map.
So many bones are collected.

I give them names:
youth, regret, drug-induced.

When I believe I have collected
all the bones it starts to rain
the topsoil drains in rivulets
exposing more –
under the frost-line,
there is a heart

but for now –
bone and rain and more bone.