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Irises Planted on a Grave

Gordon Grice

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Irises Planted on a Grave

By Gordon Grice

The irises lick the wind
with fragrant tongues,
Wound the sultry noon
with their purples,
jostle their creaking leaves,
spread like rumors under the soil,
root in the graves of my ancestors,
choke out the roses,
grow brash and crowd the grass,
poke their twisted tips
to hide the names on headstones.
After a rain, their lips are wet
and parted to speak.

