

Dan Linehan

O v e r F i f t e e n

over fifteen inches
fifteen-point-four-four to be exact
fifteen just to keep it round
 like a giant, fat raindrop

let me say it again
over fifteen inches
 of rain
 in less
 than one day

why is this happening
 to us?
we have nothing now

it all washes away
 far, far away

over fifteen inches
 of rain
equals over six feet in places
where water swells higher than high

to immerse the heads
 of those without sturdy boxes
 and tables to climb upon

to overflow the sick and elderly
 trapped on the ground floor
 and pedestrians who cannot swim

to engulf the infants and children
too young
to be tallied in the toll

to float cars
on rivery streets
like hard plastic trash

to paint oil-stained watermarks
as ghostly slick memories
on houses, signposts, banners
up, up, and up

why now the flood?
why against the season?

rain
it never has
like this before

downstream of La Plata
the petroleum refinery
shuts its floodgates
protecting itself
allowing the water to
rise
rise
rise

it says fuck you
to the people of the city

don't you know?
we provide jobs

and we provide
rain
in inches
over fifteen

A longtime professional writer, author, and award-winning poet, **Dan Linehan** often interweaves nature, current events, and far-flung lands. His poetry has been published widely in books, newspapers, and literary journals, including in *The Anthology of Monterey Bay Poets*. He is passionate about helping to solve environmental crises through creativity. Dan's new multimedia novella series *The Princess of the Bottom of the World* includes poetry inspired by his travels to Antarctica and Argentina. For more, visit:
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