

*First Place Winner*

## And when it finally happens, what then

*Arynne S. Fannin*

I think it possible  
or even likely  
that during my lifetime—  
assuming I am here long enough—  
my grandparents' grave  
will crumble into the sea.

The only question I have is whether that is  
before  
or after  
my house suffers the same fate.

If the latter, do you think  
they will find the silver locket  
in the shape of a heart—  
the one I bought on eBay for thirteen dollars  
and polished and traced their photos for  
(not as I knew them, but as they knew themselves:  
young, and smiling in the sunlight)—  
and know that  
I have not  
forgotten them?

If the former,  
will the water  
rising through my floorboards  
feel like a  
homecoming?

And if one day long after this,  
I am in a different place,  
surrounded by  
green and growing things,  
will they visit me  
In the rain?