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?