

Subtropicals

Rose Mary Boehm

Hard rain drowns all voices.
Steam rises from the high grasses,
large leaves bend in acquiescence.

The chickens cluck in the kitchen,
scratching dizzy etchings
into the hard earth floor.

Water leaks from the reed roof
into what should be the cooking fire.
Giant beetles are crowding around our feet.

We balance on uneven tree trunks.
Our hosts ignore us. Five machetes
tossed on the plastic table.

German-born, Rose Mary Boehm lives and works in Lima, Peru. Author of two novels and “Tangents,” a full-length poetry collection published in the UK in 2011, she has thrice won the Goodreads monthly competition. Her recent poetry collections are: “From the Ruhr to Somewhere Near Dresden 1939-1949: A Child’s Journey” and “Peru Blues or Lady Gaga Won’t Be Back.” Her latest full-length poetry manuscript, “The Rain Girl,” will be published by Chaffinch Press in 2020.