

DEBORAH PURDY

The Lost Explorers from Somewhere

are all mythological characters
hypnotized by the moon,
the twinkling of stars.

Superstitions of the past
are phantoms,
pangs of the unexplained.

Celestial vagabonds—
old bones,
stones from the sky

subject to the illusions of distance
and the fall of black rain,
lost cargoes

from a wrecked ship—
centaurs and canary birds
in a dreaming mind.

ABOUT THE POEM

“The Lost Explorers from Somewhere” was created from *The Book of the Damned* by Charles Fort (1919). About the poem and the process of composing it, Deborah Purdy writes:

I read through *The Book of the Damned* and compiled a list of linguistically interesting words and phrases. It occurred to me that the phrase “The Lost Explorers from Somewhere” might potentially be a good title, so I then started selecting and grouping lines together to fit that theme.



HERON TREE

11 September 2024

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