

2023 Wind & Water Writing Contest
First Prize Winner
POETRY

For our many moods, there is nothing like a lantern

By A. Garnett Weiss

For our many moods, there is nothing like a lantern

I've never been able to help myself. One way or another.
Yet, at times, I almost grasp

the thrall of all of it —
all the colours, all the birds, all the seashells

between us and the sun in cloud country, your mind
a candle, and another in the dark where the song starts.

When we look at each other,
I'm made of in this moment. And this desire to last.

Cento gloss

Title: "Harvest Moon Lantern Festival," Kayla Czaga

Line 1: "Seriously, It was the Biggest Cricket," Nick Thran

Line 2: "The Meaning of Life," Mark Callanan

Line 3: "Ah," Sonnet L'Abbé

Line 4: "I Declared My Ethnicity," Nyla Matuk

Line 5: "In Cloud Country," Michael Prior

Line 6: "They expanded the Islandic-food-as-gifts store," Sachiko Murakami

Line 7: "On Origins," Sadiqa de Meijer

Line 8: "Self-Portrait: Cassiopeia 1," Sheryda Warrenner

Source: The title and lines in the order they appear above are drawn unaltered, apart from changes in punctuation, from individual poems in *The Next Wave, An Anthology of 21st Century Canadian Poetry*, Jim Johnstone, Editor, Palimpsest Press, 2018)