

Bill ‘Liam’ Alberti

Upon Viewing Edward Hopper’s *Cape Cod Evening*

(Oil on canvas, 1939)

one expects a weathered shingled cape
not a white clapboard Victorian
bathed in warm evening sunlight
makin strange contrast
to the dark cold purple woods
whose coolness permeates
this scene with ominous loneliness
despite the three red-haired figures
arranged in a triangle of proximity
a woman in matronly dress
stands with arms folded
staring out at nothingness
a man in white tee shirt
sits on the doorstep trying to look busy
averting any chance of interaction
a collie with perked ears and pointed tail
spys something beyond this painting’s field
capturing its attention
all three are wondering
if somewhere in the distance
there might be joie de vivre
and how might any one of them
make a desperate run for it
without feet

Bill ‘Liam’ Alberti grew up in Brooklyn and studied in Ireland and China. He is a recently retired teacher who enjoys playing guitar and painting. A member of the Plymouth MA “Tidepool Poets,” his poems have appeared in various journals and newspapers. He has five published chapbooks and believes one’s art channels through various mediums.