

Gareth Culshaw

An Offer From Oxford

(for Alice)

The sea that waits for your morning breath
the neighbours that you know,
some by voice, some by eyes.
The shrubs that have grown
in your garden, to heights you
have never noticed. And the postman
opening your black gate, the steps
he's walked, and letters dropped.
The flooding that threatened to swim
your books away. But back you came.
The sea-clouds that linger as if printed
on the earth's roof. When winds
prise open slate's, let them slip
like childhood memories. The poets
that come and drink tea laugh and read.
You may miss this place, but a home
is only a skeleton. It's the person
that sits between the joints that give
it life.

Gareth lives in Wales. He had his first collection out in 2018 by Futurecycle called *The Miner*. In 2020, his second collection, called *Shadows of Tryfan* is released. He is currently on an MFA at Manchester Met. His biggest poetry fans are his two dogs, Jasper & Lana.