

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,
Maine Poet Laureate*

In this week's poem Patricia Ranzoni of Bucksport finds what she calls "generational presences and absences" in a rural Maine house.

The Old Gross Place

by Patricia Ranzoni

Across the road the
 old dairy is an apparition.
Not haunted so much as
 that it is, itself, a ghost.
When I go for mail, Hazel
 is not in the kitchen.
Mary is not upstairs, Tom
 not in his chair
by the window. White sheers
 are an absence I promise
to remember.
 One could watch forever
and never see them again.
 Search clean through
those waving old panes
 front to back, not a soul
not even a stick of their furniture
 to rest wavy eyes
on. Why a neighbor
 can look clear through
that thinning house
 all the way to heaven.

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