

Rose Mary Boehm

In the Alpujarras – Andalucia, Spain

Dark earth, sharp stones, black asphalt,
we are moving through desert hills, spilling
dust from the tyres. Hot winds. First heavy drops
of water smudge the windshield, then the
downpour. We stop on the dirt shoulder.
Falling water drums on the car roof.

Eventually the racket stops. A few more
watery thwacks and the thing is done. From the earth
steams a cloud, the heat of the day lifting off
like the ghosts escaping Hades.

And the dark earth slowly transforms into yellow.
The tiniest flowers unfold on sand and stone,
stretching upward, offering their lives
to the pollinators.

The sun will set in an hour, the spectacle
will fold in upon itself. A question shimmers
over the yellow.

Why?

Life, of course, what else.

A German-born UK national, **Rose Mary Boehm** lives and works in Lima, Peru. Author of two novels and *Tangents*, a full-length poetry collection published in the UK in 2011. She was three times winner of the Goodreads monthly competition whose recent poetry collections are: *From the Ruhr to Somewhere Near Dresden 1939-1949: A Child's Journey* and *Peru Blues or Lady Gaga Won't Be Back*. Her latest full-length poetry MS, *The Rain Girl*, will be published by Chaffinch Press in 2020.