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Invasive

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Invasive

Abstract

Rather than write the memo
about the troubling colleague
I go out to weed the flowerbed
beat back the carpet of grass
that's overgrown its boundary..

Disciplines

Poetry

Comments

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Debra Marquart

Invasive

Rather than write the memo
about the troubling colleague
I go out to weed the flowerbed
beat back the carpet of grass
that's overgrown its boundary,
search under the red and green
explosion of roses, behind spires
of delphinium for the surreptitious
sprigs of pink evening primrose
that I formally removed from this bed
seasons ago, after I discovered
it gossiped about the blazing star,
over ran the coreopsis, choked back
the dianthus. The mother plant
has been compost two years now,
still her opportunistic runners thread
beneath the surface, spread
tendrils, blossoms, seeds. Beware
the blushing flower you invite
into your midst. Some things
must control every academic inch,
a bit like the sweet mint I included
in the pot of thyme, oregano,
marjoram, rosemary. Too late
before I realized how she worked
against me, spread stalks in the dark,
threw underground shoots, even in
silent winter, even while all else
around us pretended to sleep.

Special Merit