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Ibu & Tufuga

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i

Ibu has made a pork and prawn noodle soup
two loaves of white bread one nutty loaf too
the dough rose with the afternoon sun.

The Tufuga has his sister over from Niu Sila
she wants to see Hogwarts and ghosts
her mokopuna lives in London.

I find a book in the den about thieves
Manu is a good girl she makes a platter
we eat cheese and crackers and read.

ii

The Tufuga apologises to his sister over from Niu Sila
she won't stay any longer she misses her mokopuna
he has to work he has to pack he is sorry.

The local pub is pink with playful bunting
you have to excuse yourself for walking
in the courtyard everybody smokes.

Ibu brings me a cup of chamomile tea
she dyed her hair brown she looks different
we plan to go to the markets.

iii

If a bird flies inside it means someone has died
the garden is in heat all the bees buzz
Ibu loves to plant new trees.

The Tufuga is worried about October
he is teaching an Italian history paper
The Tufuga does not speak Italian.

A new delicatessen has opened on North Parade
it sells boutique meats and hand made cheese
Ibu goes to London for the day.

iv

Manu makes a huge jug of Pimms
the neighbours come over without their kids
we sit outside under the bright blue sky

I show Manu my open wound
seeping every day seeping love
she says my ex was really hot

Ibu watches us from the garden table
she knows exactly who I might become
if only the house could house my spirits.

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