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ANOTHER DIMENSION

Grandmother Speaks of the Old Country

Lola Haskins

That year there were many deaths in the village.
 Germs flew like angels from one house to the next
 and every family gave up its own. Mothers
 died at their mending. Children fell at school.
 Of three hundred twenty, there were eleven left.
 Then, quietly, the sun set on a day when no one
 died. And the angels whispered among themselves.
 And that evening, as he sat on the stone steps,
 your grandfather felt a small wind on his neck
 when all the trees were still. And he would tell us
 always, how he had felt that night, on the skin
 of his own neck, the angels, passing.

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