

Yiddish Lesson

by Laura Silver

Ich gay schpatzieren.

I go ambling to Grandma's
in autumn
with the apples
picked upstate.

From upstate,
the apples,
Gramma
the apples, upstate.
I repeat, restate, rephrase
last weekend, the apples
we picked them.

The bag is bulging
so many apples and I
the only grandchild.

I put them in the fridge
find her on the terrace
dispense one kiss
and one apple
lay a tissue to catch
spit-out skin
sit myself
to listen.

The apple drips sap
and we sit
and we sit
and we sit.

She chews and points
across the ocean—to Riga!
asks of the boardwalk walkers
says she can't see them
gayen schpatzieren

says she can't see them

mingle. amble. ramble. roam.

Lilith

independent, Jewish & frankly feminist

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