



Crumbling Basecamps

By Inkaliisa Voionmaa

I have decided that I am allergic to peanuts
because it gives me a tangible reason to be out of breath,
at least when eating nutty chocolates.

There was a mountain of sorrow, and there was me
and perhaps she was there.

I named its highest peak in her honor.
It is her flag that is planted on its breathless heights,
her colours that fly motionless in this vacuum of mine.

There is a climbing that happens and
a setting in motion of pebbles, stones, boulders.

There is a swallowing that happens and
sometimes there is an alp

dislodging itself

from the surrounding selflessness of it all.

I have decided that my heart will not race anymore

and sometimes it heeds

and lags.

Inkaliisa Voionmaa was born in Gothenburg, Sweden in 1984. Her parents are Finnish, and they came to Sweden a couple of years before she was born. She has never felt Swedish, nor Finnish, but always Gothenburgian. She says, she's "one of the few people who love that grey lump of a city even when it's raining horizontally and the raw chill creeps through your clothes, however thick they are." She once had four of her poems published in the major daily newspaper of Gothenburg. English is her third language.