

I EVEN MISS THE MOLEHILLS

Molehills—

Those little cogs in the dirt
that tripped us up so often
don't rise up and become
mountains any longer
They just perk up my senses
and jolt me into realizing
I'd gladly welcome them back
as long as you could be
part of the package deal

Yes, I even miss the molehills
miss you sitting beside me in the car
offering those dreaded
driving instructions

Get in the next lane!

Go through that light!

Pass that guy!

There were times
I really wished I had the courage
to pull over and let you out
along the Parkway, Route 80, 287
though of course, I never did
Now I drive alone
and smile when I know
you'd want me to *Pass that guy!*
realizing, I actually miss
those pesky mole abodes
that would have jarred me
and elevated my blood pressure
months ago

Every time I pour a cup of tea
I think of how irritated
I became, my darling
when you tore the little square
from the teabag and recycled it
Not that I wasn't for recycling
but considered recycling
teabag tags excessive
but now I remove the tag
and place it in the bin

look up and whisper
I still love you

Another molehill
was the dining room table
which you used as a desk
even though you had a desk
in your office, upstairs
but the table was more convenient
so you piled it with papers
and balked at clearing it
when company was coming
Well, now it's tidy
There's a centerpiece and candlesticks
but, I'd welcome the mess, if only...

I recall the many times
I was overwhelmed
by a health crisis
or a work crisis
or a family crisis
and you'd say
Just trust Jesus
and I'd say
Easy for you to say
when in fact, you did
right to your final breath
I remember your words
...and try

There was the molehill
named *Don't break the yolks!*
I gave over the eggs and pan
to you right after the honeymoon
Now, whether they do break
or don't, I think of you

Yes, my darling
it wouldn't surprise you at all
to know I miss you, but
oh, I do hope you know...
I even miss the molehills

Maude Carolan

*The above poem appears in my chapbook, *The Widow's Song*.