

CHARLES FREELAND

The Idea of Two

In the dirt, under the floorboards of a shed,
Grubb finds a mummy. The shed
is falling in, with ivy creepers on the walls,

inside and out; Grubb can't tell if it belongs
to anyone in particular

or has merely been forgotten like a horse.

The mummy is paper all over

& it rustles when he picks it up . . .

he thinks if he had a pen he'd write a note

to whoever might find the mummy next . . .

discovered mummy whilst panning for gold.

This is a lie, of course, but a certain misdirection

is to be expected when commenting

on the dead. Grubb gets homesick & drinks

from the bottle of rum he finds in a corner.

He weeps. O! he says, who will make a mummy of me?

Outside, the coyotes move about like water,

he can hear them in the leaves; the moon

pokes its head in through the creepers,

and then, for a moment, Grubb thinks

he sees a second universe. Excited, he shakes

his companion by the shoulders . . . soon,

there is nothing left of it but the seams.