

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Late

by Sho Botham

They were late.
We were depending on them.
They've always been on time.
But this time, they're late.
What will we do?
What can we do?
Nothing.
They were late and we can't change that

The others were on time
They arrived as expected
We can usually rely on all of them
Not this time
The stars of the show were absent
They didn't appear
Nothing
They were late and we can't change that

They were missed
We were depending on them

Year after year
They arrived on time
Glamorous, gracious, golden
Perfectly poised
Prized tulips
But this year, they were late

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Missed the boat

by Sho Botham

They were late. They missed the boat. All they could do was wave as it headed away from the island. The next boat would not be until tomorrow. It was summer. The three friends decided to enjoy their night on the island. They scrambled over the rocks up to the path they had walked with the others. Soon they were on top of the hill again and striding towards the Puffins. Was it their imagination that led them to believe the puffins were surprised to see them? Do puffins know when the boats leave that they have the island to themselves?

It would be light until late so they could take photographs of the puffins all afternoon and evening. Puffins came out of their burrows curious to see the intruders. The friends could hear puffins grumbling under the ground. They listened to the sounds for a while and then sat on the grass. They watched the puffins coming and going about their business. The birds jumping off the cliff into nothing. Their wings built to keep them airborne.

Cameras filmed the puffins on the grass, coming out of burrows, in the air, interacting with other puffins. There were photographs of puffins watching the friends. Were they watching the friends?

The boat arrived. The friends mixed with the people wanting to see the puffins. Soon it was time to leave. They were not late. But they left part of themselves with the puffins as the boat sailed out to sea.