

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Relict

by Fran Duffield

relict/'relɪkt/, *a thing which has survived from an earlier period* **ARCHAIC**: *a widow*

Widowed, I am a relict,
bereft of a lifelong companion,
of tender familiarity:
black-clad remnant of the old-world
I lived in, blithe in my ignorance

complaining of pains so small
that now I laugh,
and slowly shake my head

in these days, we wear our rue
with a difference

Relicts we all are now
of an earlier time:
clumsy antediluvian creatures, stumbling
to our endplace,
tracing a sharp fracture line
in a fossil

just a disarticulated skew of bones
scattered in the dirt,
that the new children stare at,
not knowing if to bury it
with any ceremony,
or let it lie, to be forgotten