

## Post-Mortem Remarks

Loukia Borrell

The first time I went back,  
The dirt was lumpy and piled high.  
After it rained a few times,  
The dirt settled and was flat.  
I stood over you and felt I could  
Still dig you out, before the grass  
Would come in and make it harder  
To figure out where to start.  
I could open the vault and coffin,  
Pull you out and breathe in life.  
I had something to show you  
Neither of us knew before you died.  
Some of your friends are in here. Lee and  
Vince. Dean and Virginia. Others you  
Will get to know. Make sure you look  
For June and Florence, older ladies,  
And the babies and little girls who  
May still need mothering, and  
The gentleman toward the back of  
The cemetery whose headstone  
Begs your pardon for not getting up.

Loukia Borrell is the American-born daughter of Greek-Cypriot immigrants. A native of Toledo, Ohio, she was raised in Virginia Beach and graduated from Elon University with a bachelor's degree in English/journalism. She is a former newspaper journalist and began writing poetry in 2013 as a way to manage the grief she felt after her father died. Since then, her poetry has appeared in *Blue Heron Review*, *The Mark Literary Review*, *West Texas Literary Review*, *Neuro Logical*, *2 Meter Review*, and elsewhere.