

Disconnected

The cable TV was cut off more than once,
yet there was always mashed potatoes for supper
and enough tea bags for the month
(milk bought with my mother's tips),
while I studied for a test.
School one of the few things I was good at,
as I dreamed of moving to Vancouver
(the weather always seemed nicer there
when I watched the news
on one of the two channels we got
by manipulating coat hanger rabbit ears),
with no bill collectors calling,
insisting I write down a phone number-
their disgust that someone in debt had children
loud enough to make me turn off the ringer
on my own phone when I finally did move away,
but I never made it as far as I thought I would.

Richard LeDue (he/him) was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, but currently lives and with his wife and son in Norway House, Manitoba. His poems have appeared in various publications throughout 2020, and more work is forthcoming throughout 2021. His chapbook, "The Loneliest Age," was released in October 2020 from Kelsay Books.