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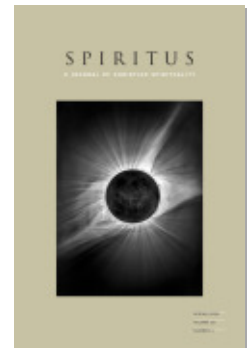
## The Mower

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# The Mower

ANGELA LEIGHTON

At two, my happiest planet was carpet.  
Its catching pile made fine crawler lanes  
round curling fronds and furious petals—  
Victorian sharawaggi, leading nowhere

beyond the outbacks of floorboards, underlay,  
beyond the piano's golden pedal  
poking its tongue, the sofa's peepshow  
of dust and dark behind a pleated valance.

This was the feeling map of my whole world,  
a padded garden of softened blows  
laid for those staying close to its ground-plan—

till One came in, tall as a monument,  
and all I saw above his shoes' black cups  
were the grass-cuttings caught in his turn-ups.