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Skogskyrkogården

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### [Alyson Miller](#)

Alyson Miller teaches literary studies at Deakin University, Geelong. Her poetry and short stories have app

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In the half-light, we walk through woodlands that keep lost  
children and old stones, shadowed by pines that seem to breathe  
small prayers into the wind. Joggers weave silently around  
tombstones like night creatures and we stare at them like ex-  
otic and unreal things. By a bunker that once stored bodies  
but now stores potatoes, we hear of how a girl died playing  
hide and seek among the graves, knocked by a falling head-  
stone into cold sleep; folded into the dirt. And how, undone  
by the curious death, the people of the surrounding village  
laid flat the remaining stones like a ritual, pulling them out  
like old teeth and wrapping them back into the safety of earth.

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