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Arlington // Lisa Hozey

Young men travel to a sea of white crosses and marble stars, fate packing their boxes. Manicured green waves are hit by gathering storm crowds. The sea fills with a drizzle of salty rain as thunder cracks through the darkness, twenty-one crisp echoes in the silence. Sirens sing to a man who will never hear them. The son sinks below the horizon, bright rays descending to depths, never again to rise up in a burst of morning-glory. An undertow of infantry greets another below. Starry skies are folded, left with the leaving. Dismal black crowds soon roll away, a single flower surviving the storm. Its soft, red kiss burns against the chilling rise of a new swell.