

# Two Poems

by [Tamiko Dooley](#) (July 2021)



*The Green Hill*, Winslow Homer, 1878

## *Yurushi (Forgiveness)*

**Last night I** dreamt of you:  
You were turned away as we spoke  
I couldn't see your face

You were kneeling on the floor

Facing the *fusuma* door as it slid shut  
Closing on all my mistakes

I heard your voice, as rough as the scales of salmon  
You'd grab with yellow rubber gloves  
As she swam upstream

I felt the brush of your shoulder  
As I reached for you to explain  
But you didn't move

I tasted the bitter dregs of *hojicha* tea  
Left to brew all evening

And when my forehead touched the tatami floor in apology  
You were turned away

I couldn't see your face

*Choices (Erabu)*

If I dream of you,  
I steal you into my mind,  
Or you choose to come?

*yume no naka*  
*kimi o sarauka*  
*kimi ga kuru?*

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**Tamiko Dooley** is a half-Japanese mother of two, born and raised in England. When there's no pandemic, she's hired as a

wedding pianist from time to time.

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