

History lesson

by [Greg Huteson](#) in the [September 23, 2020](#) issue

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Lingering by the iron pump—  
its handle a lazy S—  
and the shards strewn about  
among clover-leafed weeds,  
the girl gestured her once-haunts  
to the brown-haired foreign boy.  
Pointed to yellowed houses  
slipped slightly from old moorings,  
lightly slapped the red  
brick wall, the chipped  
tiles of pomegranates  
and glazed peaches. “Before,”  
she said, “I lived here.”  
Mute and sweating,  
he stepped back, stepped back.