

parody of what an index should be; e.g., "Gabriel (the angel): 98; Helen of Troy: 173; 'Valhalla': 117." As a denizen of another polysyllabic American country would say, "Oog!"

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MILLAR MACLURE

## ROW OF DOMINOES

*David Cornel De Jong*

There is nothing on the pinewood  
table except a row of dominoes,  
nothing moves the tablets—white  
dotted on black—but my hand  
with gardening fingers—symbolic  
green thumbs and genuine joints.  
It is mid-morning, and around me  
insects ramble through the leaves  
and grass, while inside the remote  
house a quartet of women talks about  
recipes and patterns, and may say  
indulgently: "You'd think he'd  
realize how wasteful it is for  
a man to give his wits to dominoes  
when the day is so exacting."

It does not rain, nor is it warm;  
I sit divested of both time  
and haste, asking no one to  
join me solving or unravelling  
anything, or to undermine my  
surrender to serenity and peace  
and my confidence in both. Only  
my fingers do little more than  
set up and then allow to clatter  
down repeated regiments of dominoes,  
while my ears catch the familiar  
rumbling of the train through  
companionable hills and my eyes  
embrace green enclaves of everything.