

ANN TAYLOR

## En Paz Descanse, Déia, Majorca

“Robert’s grave,” laughed the local tourguides,  
amusing the then quite vital poet.

It’s a sun-baked slab, set uneven onto,  
not into, the weedy, disruptive soil.

Scraggly succulents finger the edges, a white  
jar of weeds and worn flowers resting  
at the head, with a dead red candle in a pot.

In military row at the foot, line small  
wooden crosses, pinned with battered poppies  
from his Welsh Fusiliers to Captain Graves.

The grave’s dishevelled, like him, unsettled.

His credits catalogue his restlessness—  
translator, historian, biographer, critic, novelist,  
lecturer, essayist, memoirist, poet—

“Never the same book twice; no stooge,” he vowed.

A reinventor, revisor of life and words,  
ever announcing goodbye then hello  
to always alter egos. To his readers,  
a romantic realist, anticipator of regressions,  
whimsical cynic, aesthete of contradictions.

Attended to by muses, this Majorcan Englishman,  
worldly villager, is here brought to rest.

No bronze “To dribble green in times of rain,”  
no “spiders in the spread beard,” no wreaths.

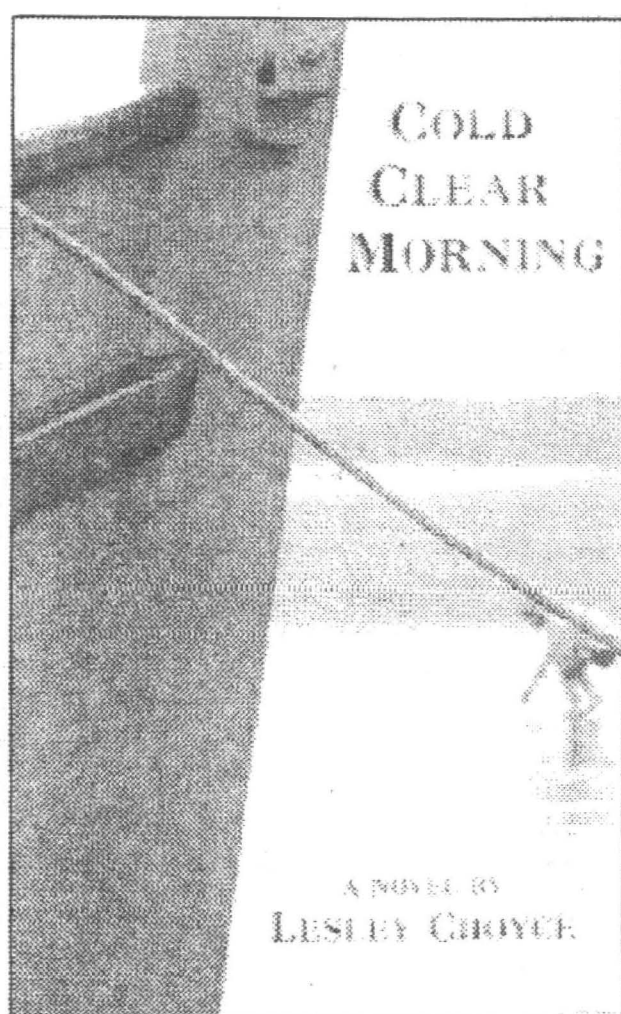
Just jagged cursive—the name, the dates,  
the EPD, and centred, the one identity

singled out, the hope, the oyster's pearl,  
the task that mattered, most precise for truth,  
setting firmly and forever in the sun—

Poeta

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