

My mother never said to

Stay at least 10 metres
from a sleeping sea lion
20 from an active one
To stay out of the sun
cooking oil and lemon juice
no longer any use in the back yard
now there's a huge ozone hole
where bargain meat packs
and mole maps are given
as spot prizes to burnt sausages
or legs - Insta can't tell
the difference which is why
parallel train lines
getting closer together
are an optical illusion
a visual lie - just like canals
are safer navigation

I grew up in the Rhubarb Triangle
where sheds are for sugaring
and canals are for running
along weeping with your skirt ripped
because you tripped and it hurt
but lemons are not rhubarb
had it been a swimming river
I could wrap lemons in my skirt
and float home without circling
round the greasetrap
She never said to leave
the penguins alone either
especially the scruffy birds
moulting
I'm not sure why they can't move
perhaps they freeze -
fight or flight being unavailable
trauma responses