

CHRISTOPHER LOCKE

Ecotours, Ltd.

(Ixil Triangle, Guatemala)

Olive-shined and crumpled,
eucalyptus leaves huddle weakly
atop steaming rocks, unmarrow
the lungs with a darker fragrance
shocking you back to life.

You breathe the stinging deeper,
gaze the few chicken feathers
mixed in, and smile: you've another
hour in this dripping cave, and then
it's hot air balloon champagne dinner
high above a Mayan landscape.

The brochures were right: you *couldn't*
ask for a better deal, the tour sold
cheap and easy as the human bones

just a dig of earth away, 30 years
since a bulldozer shamed them
into ground, muddied tree roots
now curling about skulls popped open
by gunfire bright enough to translate
terror into cornstalks shattered red.

But that was a long time ago,

and now you've artisanal rum
to sample, hand-sewn tapestries
of the quetzal bird to consider,
and these cute little jade earrings
that your girlfriend would just die for.

CHRISTOPHER LOCKE is the Nonfiction Editor of *Slice* magazine in Brooklyn. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in numerous publications, including *Verse Daily*; *Southwest Review*; *Poetry East*; *Arc*, (Canada); *The Nervous Breakdown*; *32 Poems*; *The SHOP*, (Ireland); *West Branch*; *RATTLE*; *The Literary Review*; *Ascent*; *The Sun*; *Connecticut Review*, *Upstreet*, *Agenda*, (London), and on both National Public Radio and Ireland's Radio One. His collection of poems, *End of American Magic*, was released by Salmon Poetry in 2010. *Waiting for Grace & Other Poems* (Turning Point Books) and the collection of essays *Can I Say* (Kattywompus Press) were both released in 2013. His essay/poetry collection about his travels through Latin America, *Ordinary Gods* (Salmon Poetry), and his first book for children, *The Heart Flyer* (tapStory), have been recently accepted for publication.