

# Eulogy

by Brenda-Lee Ranta



Image: “The Old Paper Mill” by Denise Sedor. “Eulogy” was written by Brenda-Lee Ranta for *Rattle’s* Ekphrastic Challenge, June 2020, and selected as the Artist’s Choice.

Cataracts in my mind  
have shielded me from  
recalling clearly the hours

my old metal lunch pail  
stuffed with soggy bread  
wrapped in waxed paper,  
with stained fingers that  
brought sustenance to my  
dry mouth, gnarled leather

a million breaths, countless  
heartbeats are still wafting up  
through your smoke stacks  
I cannot recall the colour of  
the skies beyond the rooftop  
where I sold my life for a buck

my crooked bones remember  
every moment I gave to you;  
my mind blurred by your image.