



*Poetry Quarterly*  
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## **The Well-kept Lawn**

I tend my lawn with great care and frame its beauty and abundance for everyone to view. By day it shimmers teal as if the earth and sea have merged to formed a lasting union; by night it turns a yellow jade, a beacon set aflame to light the world's way home. It bears a cunning perfection from afar. It is everyone's envy.

But no one sees what only shows up close in all that lies beneath the vibrant, lively swards, the efflorescent plot – a place where soiled dreams are buried, where hopes, in ruin, perish as death resounds in every breath that rustles through each blade across my well-kept lawn.

**Featuring an international extravaganza  
of poetry by these fine poets:**

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Bola Opaleke  
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