

## THE LOST WORKER

Whether the rumours resulted from the faint clangs,  
or the faint clangs resulted from the rumours,

even the oldest believed the possibility  
of a lost worker could only be an omen.

No matter their sense of wonder,  
the pending deadlines, or their hurried pace,

in the back of some workers' minds  
their rivets sealed more than just the hull.

At home they hugged their children,  
kissed their wives

or dreamed of families  
they had yet to realize.

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their rivets sealed more than just the hull.

HARLAND AND WOLFF

At six-twenty each morning  
workers would congregate  
by the green gates, often arriving early  
to avoid the crush of thousands  
for the sooner they reached  
their work stations,  
the sooner they started  
to earn a wage.

Those arriving late  
were literally locked out  
and would lose a whole day's pay  
not to mention the funds spent  
holed up at the public house  
avoiding home.

## THE HATS

Most workers wore duncher caps  
save for the foremen  
who wore bowlers  
and The Hats  
who'd enter the main office  
in top hats black  
as a stoker's coal-covered face.