

Sutton Road Cemetery

after Eavan Boland

His mother had driven him back to London in the half light.
He sighed in the passenger seat. They stopped
by the Southend seas as the wind picked up and
clouds thinned into English women. All the stones
had said nothing of their names as he skimmed them wide
across the waves.

Earlier, when he'd found the grave of his great-grandmother
by the elderberry tree it was the one time he'd wanted
someone white to appear and ask
where he was from. It would've been no skin off him
to point at her stone and say

here

Raymond Antrobus

Raymond Antrobus

Raymond Antrobus MBE FRSL, born in London to an English mother and Jamaican father, is the author of *To Sweeten Bitter* and *The Perseverance*. In 2019 he became the first ever poet to be awarded the Rathbones Folio Prize for best work of literature in any genre. He is the recipient of fellowships from Cave Canem, Complete Works 3, Jerwood Compton and the Royal Society of Literature.

Other accolades include the Ted Hughes award, PBS Winter Choice, the Guardian Poetry Book Of The Year 2018, as well as a shortlist for the Griffin Prize and Forward Prize. Antrobus was the winner of the *Sunday Times / University of Warwick Young Writer of the Year Award*, 2019, and was a judge of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award in 2019. In 2021 he wrote and presented BBC Radio 4's *Inventions In Sound*, which won Best Documentary: Bronze award at the 2021 Third Coast International Audio Festival.

Antrobus's poem 'Jamaican British' is on the GCSE English Literature syllabus in the UK, and his latest collection, *All The Names Given*, has been shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize and the Costa Award.

A recording of this poem can be found at **writersmosaic.org.uk**

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