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## Südtirol

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# Südtirol

Lauren Burgess

*Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner*

The bottom of a massive geological bowl  
that wanted to keep me like the last Werther's  
in grandma's dish:  
this is where green comes from.  
This is where mountains like widespread fingers  
hold forests speckled with castles  
and brightness. Striking

the dichotomy of Alpine green  
and blue: unreachable, halting  
vastness,

visible for the tormented joy of the ingested  
who see birds leave over peaks,  
who wonder if they taste the slightest humidity  
on their black tongues. Wonder  
from the base of the greatest stomach

where I sat with chickens  
in the vineyard,  
ate berries off trees,  
hiked barefoot,  
and learned a good deal  
about the functionality  
of Poundian economics  
and the history of farming equipment.  
I wrote some

in my broom-closet-dorm.  
The desk touched the bed  
and the bed touched the closet.

The window shrunk  
when I looked to the seeming peristalsis  
of the lush and thought about the chickens.