



# The Rush Magazine

Back to Top

Hugh Findlay · 3 days ago · 1 min read

## Thistle do nicely

by Hugh Findlay



Above, Scotch mist rises,  
blue, slow and creamy.  
Thistle, guardian against invaders,  
announces its purple warning.  
Below, the *Royal Mile* adorned  
with St. Andrew's cobblestones.

Labor up to the castle for views,  
singular and steeped like tea,  
of the bracing Firth of Forth,  
as bagpipes cry for Loch Lomond  
and shortbread butters the tongue.

Oh, wouldn't it frost ye—  
grabbing at the prickly stem,  
reaching for family roots,  
as buds explode in  
your mind, your heart.

Whether on Princes street, or  
atop Scott monument, even  
in shadows 'neath Arthur's Seat,  
jutting spires abound with  
thistle stamped in contrary pride.

Do not pick a fight with this beauty  
as it is festooned for battle.  
Give in, and hold it up,  
high as your Scottish chin,  
whilst angels take their share  
of your whiskey in wind.

Go wrap it then, in cashmere  
scarves, or drape it smartly  
in grand tartans for all to see—  
its clan's ancestors in defiance,  
donning their own purple tams,  
lovely, yet brutal as sword dances.

*Hugh Findlay's writing and photography have been published worldwide. Nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2020 for poetry, the Best Microfiction Anthology in 2024 for prose, and the Best of the Net Anthology in 2024 for photography, he is in the third trimester of life and hopes y'all like his stuff. IG: @hughmanfindlay. Web: <https://www.hughmanfindlay.com>*

2025 Photo Poetry Hugh Findlay



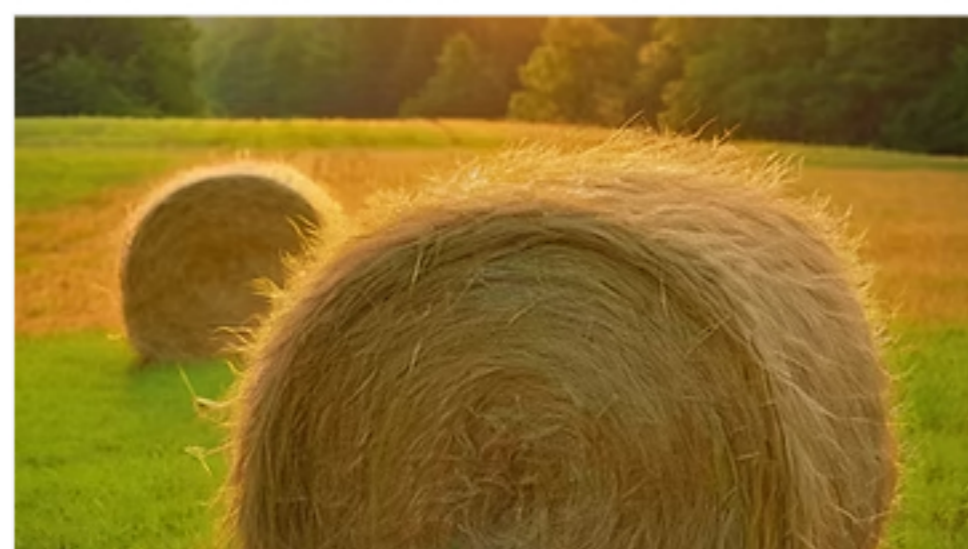
Photo Poetry · 2025

3 views 0 comments



### Recent Posts

See All



#### A Georgic for Turning

10 views 0 comments



#### Us — a haiku

14 views 0 comments

### Comments

Write a comment...