

Newlyweds' Planter

They haven't learned yet
how deep you have to plunge
your fingers, how much soil
you need to add and add
again, how hard it is
to set roots in firmly,
to root out any pocket
of air that will kill
the tender tissue,
how brutal the act of planting –

hummingbird mint,
lambs' ears,
autumn-flowering clematis
in a barrel once used
for whiskey, that before
it was drained and cut in half,
breathed out the angels' share.

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