

Appalachia

Volume 71
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2020: Unusual Pioneers*

Article 25

2020

Bully Raven

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Recommended Citation

Smelcer, John (2020) "Bully Raven," *Appalachia*: Vol. 71 : No. 2 , Article 25.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol71/iss2/25>

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Bully Raven

When my dog was a pup
two ravens used to steal his food.
One would bite hold of his tail,

and when he turned to chase it
the other would swoop down
and quickly eat what it could.

They took turns—
those wicked, cunning birds—
until there was nothing left in his bowl.

Now, whenever a raven flies overhead,
he tucks his ragged tail between his legs
and growls and barks at the sky.

John Smelcer

JOHN SMELCER'S most recent poetry books are *Indian Giver* (Leapfrog Press, 2017) and *Raven* (Leapfrog Press, 2019).