

# Appalachia

---

Volume 71  
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2020: Farewell, Mary  
Oliver: Tributes and Stories*

---

Article 29

2020

## Last Day of December: Banff, 2017

Robin Chapman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Chapman, Robin (2020) "Last Day of December: Banff, 2017," *Appalachia*: Vol. 71: No. 1, Article 29.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol71/iss1/29>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appalachia by an authorized editor of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu](mailto:dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu).

---

---

**Last Day of December: Banff, 2017**

**Dear Ones**, I had resigned myself  
to the company of trees, lively and burdened  
by the weight of eight inches of snow,  
the sap-cracking cold of thirty below,  
lifting their heavy branches even so  
into a greening sun — the hill too steep  
and littered by windfalls to view  
the mule deer that come at noon rest —  
but as I stepped out, a bundle of wool,  
into the waning day, I saw the young one,  
half-grown, folded into the cluster of roots  
across the path, patiently waiting out the cold.

*Robin Chapman*

---

---

ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of nine poetry books, most recently *Six True Things* (Tebot Bach, 2016). She was the recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Flyway*, *Poetry East*, and *Terrain*, among other journals.