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The Poem You're Carrying With You

Robin Chapman

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The Poem You're Carrying With You

Always, at the bottom of thought,
 these stones, beach-strewn,
 picked out by sunlight
 or stumbled upon,
worry stone, memory stone,
 heart stone, some broken-off piece
 of an older world, waiting
 through millions of years
for slow speech, room in your pocket,
 the rub of your thumb, talisman,
 reminder that you're joined
 to every element of earth.

Robin Chapman

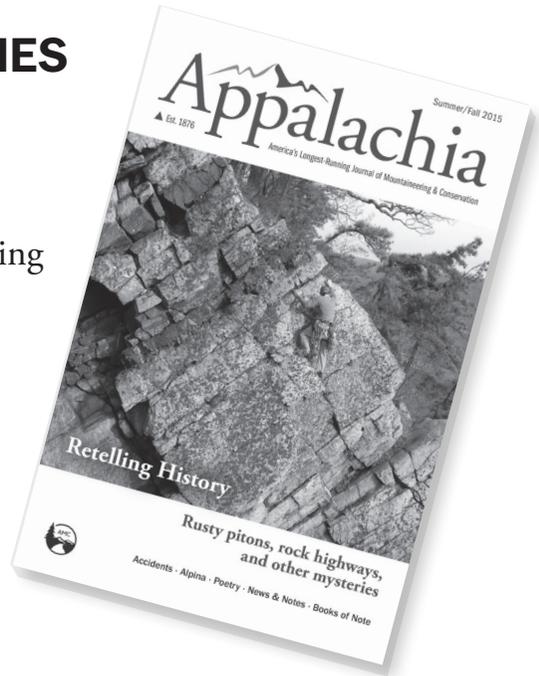
ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of seven poetry books, most recently *The Eelgrass Meadow* (Tebot Bach, 2011). She is the recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Atlanta Review*, *Dalhousie Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Southern Poetry Review*, among other journals.

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