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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*

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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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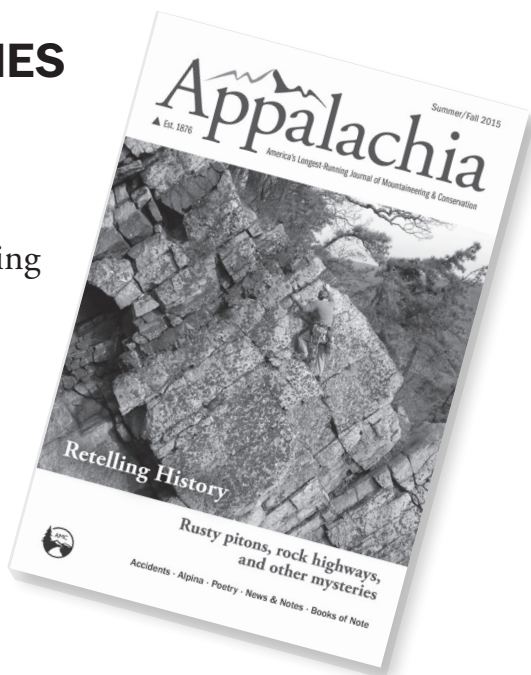
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