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Light

Robin Chapman

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Light

Here in the short mountain days of December
we can't stop looking at the ten a.m. apricot light
pouring through the pines, raying the snow
in the spoked wheel of sunrise, the deep blue
windows of pine. Bounding the ravine, two martens
trace fluid dark paths, bodies pouring in and out
of underbrush and burrows. The nuthatch climbs
the lodgepole, blue feathers and black cap.
Deer hoof-prints stitch the snowcrust. At breakfast
we talked of the night sky, moonlight cast up
from the snow lit our way, while far to the north,
auroral dark, the thousand and two visible stars,
the Milky Way, divided the year from penumbral day.
All of life spun daily past the sun, the wheeling moon,
the blue-black starfield, the wandering planets,
our bodies' clocks reset to sunrise, moon, and night.

Robin Chapman

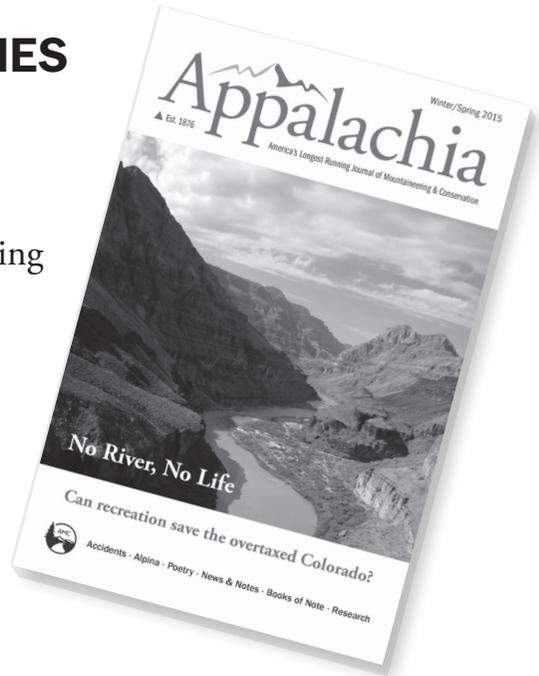
ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of seven poetry books, most recently *The Eelgrass Meadow* (Tebot Bach, 2011). She is recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Atlanta Review*, *Dalhousie Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Southern Poetry Review*, among other journals.

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