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## Night Hike

Robin Chapman

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## Night Hike

We go by voice and touch through dark woods,  
lights switched off, no moon, our feet  
feeling for path. The way opens up, traced overhead  
by a trail of starlight in the canopy. Come  
to a field we find our way by the whisper of prairie grass  
to the left and right, the fireflies rising on either side.  
Down steep ravines, fallen tree trunks block our way  
and each of us waits to warn the next in line.  
A single flashlight stays switched on to show  
the rocky steps, then switches off. The blind eye  
finds darker patches ahead that might be legs,  
a pale swatch of shirt, or foxfire flowing ghostly  
in a log, pale stripes of birch, stars shifting restlessly  
in the water of the pond. Ahead, something moves;  
nothing that we can name, but the sure body  
steps forward into the nothing that we can see.

*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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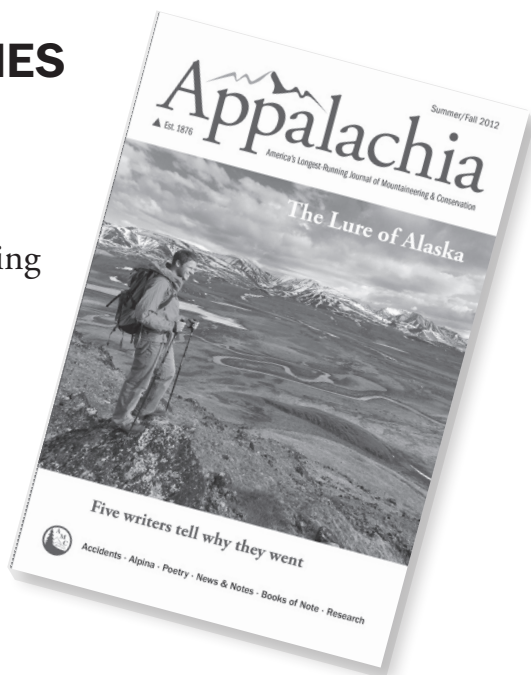
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