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At Winter's Core

Robin Chapman

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At Winter's Core

I've found the hot spring at forty below,
deep snow, and in its black water
the green of watercress,
slick algae filaments furring tufa rock,
smoke rising, the smell of sulfur,
every bare branch and needled pine
and eyelash white in hoarfrost.
I've heard the liquid singing in the sharp air,
and watched the mule deer,
resting at noon, head up, his antlers
tipped with sun, ears lifted, listen:
whatever moved, moved through our bodies—
the light, the wind, the creak of pine,
the Bow River's glacial mumbling.
He stood, his hoofprint steaming.

Robin Chapman

ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of six poetry books, most recently *Abundance* (Cider Press, 2009), which won the Cider Press Review Book Award. She is recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *The Antigonish Review*, *Dalhousie Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among other journals.

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