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To Read The World

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To Read The World

In this late light, each swell
casts a long line of shadow
that deepens, moving toward me.

Crows contend back in the marsh, and one
flies out along the bluff
calling as it goes.

Here, where I stood when young,
I'm still learning
to read the world. As if it were yet another

upheaval I could remember
in this place,
I watch the ancient rifting

of the Atlantic;
think how the moon, rising full now,
pulled on the water

before this shore was born.
A cormorant emerges, croaks
in alarm, flaps her black wings,

striking and breaking the surface.
I follow until we are
wholly in air.

Polly Brown

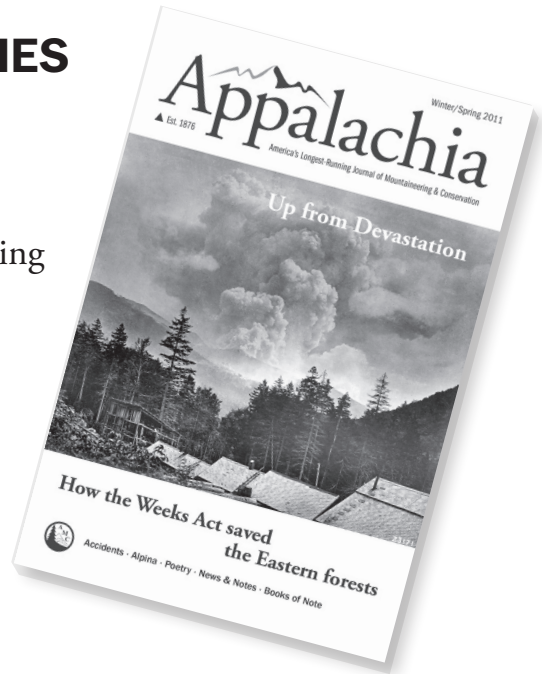
POLLY BROWN teaches at Touchstone Community School and works with the poetry collaborative, Every Other Thursday, in eastern Massachusetts. Her latest chapbook, *Each Thing Torn From Any of Us*, was published by Finishing Line Press. She has written also for *terrain.org*.

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