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Living in the Wilderness: Another Year

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**Living in the Wilderness:
Another Year**

October, and the river runs slow, the spring speed
of seven miles an hour reduced to two. This journey's
a question of power paddling and finding the channel
in low water, of scaling ten-foot muddy banks to tie
canoes to tamarisk or willow roots. Wild country,
I called it in springtime four years ago, first seeing,
our honeymoon. Today I remember the shapes
of the rocks—Anvil and Sphinx and Turks Cap;
remember to hide the food from the mice who live
in the ledge by the Water Canyon, to look for
the cliff swallows' nests in Stillwater Canyon,
to name the strata we're cutting through, wonder
if the heron at Tent Bottom campsite is the same one
who watched us leave back then, flying downriver
ahead of us; and if he's handed us off at the bend
to the same raven that waited there; if that could
even be the same canyon wren Gary Snyder saw.

Robin Chapman

ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of ten prize-winning collections of poetry, including the Wisconsin Library Association's Outstanding Achievement Award for *The Only Home We Know* (Tebot Bach, 2019). She is recipient of *Appalachia's* Helen Howe Poetry Prize. Recent work has appeared in the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, the *Hudson Review*, and *Valparaiso Poetry Review*. *Panic Season* (Tebot Bach, 2022) is her latest book.

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