

Because you saw her in the woods

Because you saw her in the woods
when you lay awake in your bed
when quiet passed out of your life for that one quick moment,
because you thought you saw your child waiting for you on the
other side, you felt a fire inhabiting your eyes.

But when she smiled it radiated passion,
because her love is all you ever really needed,
because her touch kept you warm at night
when winter winds whistling and whispering surrounded you,
and all you wanted was her comforting embrace.

And because you stared without weary eyes
when love of these things created joy,
because the radio played nothing but songs of regret,
when you imagined train whistles loping toward angels carving
her initials deep in the clouds, you felt a calm come over you.

And that is why darkness has taken over you no longer.

—Ruth Albright, Kyle Brown, Brock Gates, Denise Hoffman, Brit-
tany Long, Melanie Waits, and Stuart Lishan