

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 20
Number 1 *Shadows*

Article 43

Fall 12-1-1999

Bookwish

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Recommended Citation

Goring, Ruth (1999) "Bookwish," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 1 , Article 43.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol20/iss1/43>

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Bookwish

– Ruth Goring

I wish you liked to read.
I wish you came home bulging
with thoughts, sentences dangling
& looped about you like vines,
your mind mossy & fragrant
with phrases.

You would read to me,
your voice riding each story's weather:
throaty & dark, shrill,
tentative, serene, or scuttling
like a rat.
I would forget the best stories
so you could read them again.

Sometimes we would cry,
pierced by word-knives, delivered
into rooms without windows,
clutching each other, appalled.

Having traversed a vast
topography of pages,
we would close the book,
cook real food, pour juice or wine,
& eat with the relieved & thankful air
of travelers who have
come upon their Rivendell.