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## The Rockies

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## The Rockies

*Beth Peluso*

brooding grandfathers  
with stern, heavy brows  
snowhaired  
but beautiful beneath  
the prickly forest labyrinth  
with a thousand paths  
to lose your way.  
the proud cold air washing over you  
like trout breathing  
in glacier streams  
winds lisp through pines  
who pipe their lonely music;  
the air-threads stretched thin  
between grey anvil clouds  
before the daily ritual of rain:  
you feel them twist round you  
with the raw scent of their water,  
then fey little hands patter the earth down.  
the shy startled look  
on a doe's young face  
before she glides on her way,  
the flitting of grey jays  
hoping for handouts,  
the warbling and burbling of  
seldom glimpsed songbirds  
flick of wings here  
black dew eye there.  
the harsh coldness of stars  
bright and uncaring  
pierce through the  
Night's black armor  
of branch-rustle  
and needle-scuffle  
and cricket concertos  
drifting  
on the wind.