

Fall 12-1-2018

Unkept

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Recommended Citation

Gnad, Cherylyn (2018) "Unkept," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 41 : No. 1 , Article 17.
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol41/iss1/17>

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Gnadt: Unkept

Unkept

the path
of course, at first glance
looked perfectly acceptable, comfortable even
mirrored reflection revealed grey, unworthy, unwanted
the petals fell and birds wept

fragile steps rubbed at the surface
the shimmering paved path
began to fade and crumble under foot
unveiling the true nature
blanketed in darkness and lies

through the thicket of overgrown brush and stones
a glimmer – shallow, faint – within reach
tender arms stretched forth
unable to retreat nor fast forward
frozen, set out for thaw

time, keeper of infinite wisdom turned slowly
pulling at roots, aware of thorns
a gently point tears – often a gash
no matter, showing care
the pricks lost their bite

the dense entrapment started to thin
revealing the marks and bruises
thrust forward onto a ledge, untethered
wide open showing the faded scars
that never disappear

filling cracks with moonlight and fresh greenery
a new path, not as glittering as before

more of a glow, but rubbing the surface
it remained true
unkept

CHERYLYN GNADT

