

Fall 12-1-2019

Ice On The River (After Mei Yao Chen)

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Recommended Citation

Freek, George (2019) "Ice On The River (After Mei Yao Chen)," *The Prairie Light Review*. Vol. 42 : No. 1 , Article 46.

Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol42/iss1/46>

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ICE ON THE RIVER (AFTER MEI YAO CHEN)

The clouds absorb the light.
They say what they say
to the night.

As the moon climbs the sky,
the sweetness of apple
blossoms fills my mind,
reminding me of spring,
but spring is far away.

Snow now falls on the trees.
Starlings huddle frozen
on barren branches,
devoid of leaves.

Last winter, my wife
would be making tea
for my friends and me.
But she's dead.
The friends, I no longer
wish to see.

The end
of life is bitter.
The river flows,
but it turns to ice in the winter.

GEORGE FREEK