

Spring 5-1-2017

## Returning to Recollection's Place

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### Recommended Citation

Tolman Flannery, Maureen (2017) "Returning to Recollection's Place," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 39 : No. 2 , Article 14.  
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol39/iss2/14>

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## Returning to Recollection's Place

Aren't you, too, energized  
by the alchemy of place and memory,  
longing for a landscape that charges  
in its particular way?

I crave what wells up in me  
returning to that patch of timber—  
aspen growth shimmering at the rim  
of lodge pole pines. It's akin

to a magnet's urgency nearing the iron surface  
or a cocklebur's relief when it's knocked  
off the sock and back onto soil.  
Perhaps you're attached to patch of dirt road

or the canyon cliff you repelled down  
with a guttural yell of bliss,  
even a trashy abandoned shack  
where you met with friends to map out mischief.

Maybe passion stirs in that wood where you first  
heard a magpie answer squirrel banter  
or in cactus-spiked badlands where you  
peered through mica at the unrelenting blue of sky,

or a certain curve of shore freshly etched  
by sandpiper feet and the sidelong scamper  
of hermit crabs. I can't find an apt word  
for the solace that emerges when we approach

the wild place our innocence could not tame.  
A dormant homing pigeon instinct kicks in  
when I head again for those mountains  
to feel the tight clump of otherness loosen.

*Maureen Tolman Flannery*