



The Miles No One Wants

Tom Montag

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Horses turned tail
to the mountains,
wind teaching patience.

Something like love,
what the sun
does to the mountains.

Antelope
on the land

and the shadows
of land.

Mountains
moving behind
the mountains.

Afternoon, Levy, New Mexico.
Not the same as anywhere.

Oh, the cottonwoods.
If they had water,
they would sing.

Not cloud
but mountain.

Not worry
but wisdom.

The sun scratches
afternoon

off the sky,
and now it's

evening.

What the mountains
offer

where there's nothing
you want?

In this faltering light,
the light.

Lovely sun
on the peaks. I can't hold my breath
long enough.

All these sentinels
gathered around,

the elders watching.
A water color sky.

Mountain, Mountain
is all you can say,

or fall to silence.

Approaching Los Alamos

Here we fly.
Who goes in

goes out.
Who touches

mountain,
touches sky.

The white sky,
these mountains --
even God goes blind.

Empty river
calls out to sky.

Sky comes down
to kiss it.

Abiquiu

Rock,
and we seem small.

Cloud,
and we are wet.

Wind,
and now we fly.

High in the mountains,
the storm's argument

Trickster says
if you lived here,

you'd be home.

Taos Pueblo

Lost in snow.
What am I not

meant to see?

Over the edge and into the mouth
of darkness, where trickster tells the truth.
No one falls down the mountain.

Mid-afternoon.
A quick antelope

in a side glance,
there and not there.

The trickster plays
with my eyes again.

These roads to nowhere,
these are my roads.

The miles no one wants,
they are mine, too.

Where am I going?
I'm going to hell

the long way around.