

Wilderness House Literary Review 19/2

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CAST ACROSS WATER

The weathered plank bridge
supports itself by reflection
until it lands on the island,
deserted island in cartoons
where instead of a sole
palm tree, a foursome
of cottonwood trees
launch raft leaves
like messages in bottles
not for rescue but a lure –
a lighthouse beacon/beckon
to partake in a hammock
cast across the water.

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STAIRS LEAD

Steps lead to the door
then veer right
in an adventure upward,
but visitors stop
on the landing between
entrance and ascension.

An invitation inside
or a trespass
of peeping-tom proportions
worthy of a duck down
and sneak down
back to the landing
where permission
was granted,
where temptation
lured steps advancing.

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TO FIND

A person climbs a mountain
and sits on the highest ledge
to survey the landscape around
as if the answer lies below.

A person sits in a field
and contemplates everything
above eye level as if awaiting
nourishment if one only opens
his mouth.

A person strolls through the forest.
Smells fallen leaves decaying
underfoot. Listens to the wind
brush through tree limbs.
Touches a boulder facing sunshine
while the other side shivers
from last night's frost.
Sees ancestral trees stretch farther
with each step no matter where one steps.
Tastes a long-stemmed piece of grass
with a flavor of summer still surviving.

A person climbs a mountain
because it's there
long after the person
has descended.