

all this bowing



Jessica Malone Latham

General 1881



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JLatham

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“wild lupine” *Hedgerow*, 2017

“dandelion fluff” *Hedgerow*, 2017

“searching for authenticity” *Skylark*, 2016

“river rain” *Hedgerow*, 2017





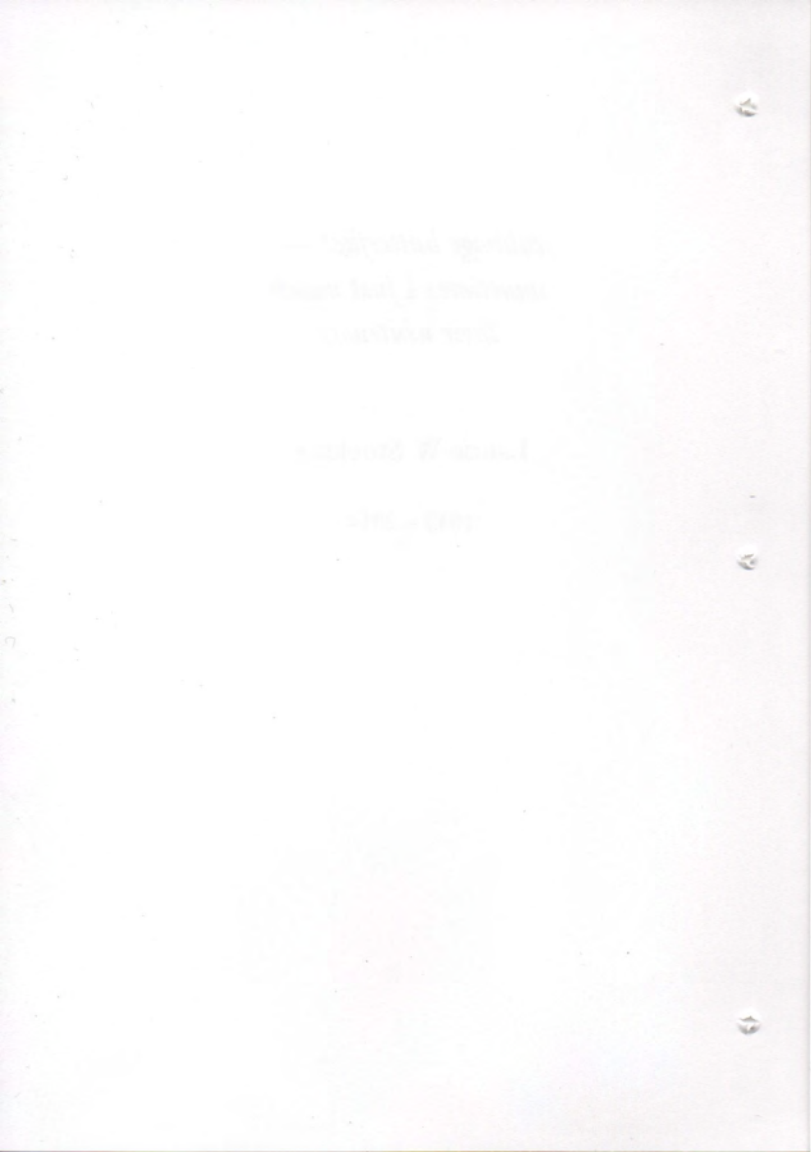
for every bleeding heart



*cabbage butterflies —
sometimes I just watch
their whiteness*

Laurie W. Stoelting

1943 – 2014



black butterfly
do I like
who I've become

beneath the wing
of a snowy egret
my darkest secrets

dandelion fluff
the silly things I still
wish for

searching for authenticity
in this world
honeybees
hover a plastic feeder
full of sugar water

body scan
how many butterflies
have lived inside me

how elegantly
seaweed climbs toward sunlight
make me this way
in my
darkest moments

river rain
these old lessons
again and again

driftwood
unsure where
I belong

another lizard tail
left at the door . . .
how many
identities
I have dropped

succulents
I no longer hide
my sins

wild lupine
do you too feel
misunderstood

the patterns
of windblown sand
oh, if I could
surrender
to life's changes

after all that darkness
the first bit of light —
crocus dawn

abalone shells
the layers of light
in us too

faith . . .
the unseen choir of fledglings
behind an old oak

spring dusk
I yearn to know
a planting song

morning ablutions
rain rinses
the earth

a finch hops
like a chickadee
finally
becoming
my true self

jasmine dawn
I slather myself
with mantras

daffodils
and feeding songbirds
all this bowing
to that
which keeps us alive

dandelion flowers
happy my life didn't go
as I had hoped

if you are
what you eat
make me a hummingbird
that feeds on
flower nectar

child's pose moon
starlight on
my back

dressed in gold
I start to believe
my worth

we are
a collection of our
experiences
this endless expansion and
contraction of birdwings

lavender breeze
slowly becoming
peace

happiness
yellow in the very heart
of a red rose

obstructed view
do I really need to know
where I am going

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Jessica Malone Latham is the author of *cricket song: Haiku and Short Poems from a Mother's Heart* (Red Moon Press, 2017) and *clouds of light* (wooden nickel press, 2017). She is passionate about turning wounds into humble lessons for growth and finding authenticity. When not writing or reading, she enjoys hiking, laughing, and playing with her husband and two young boys.

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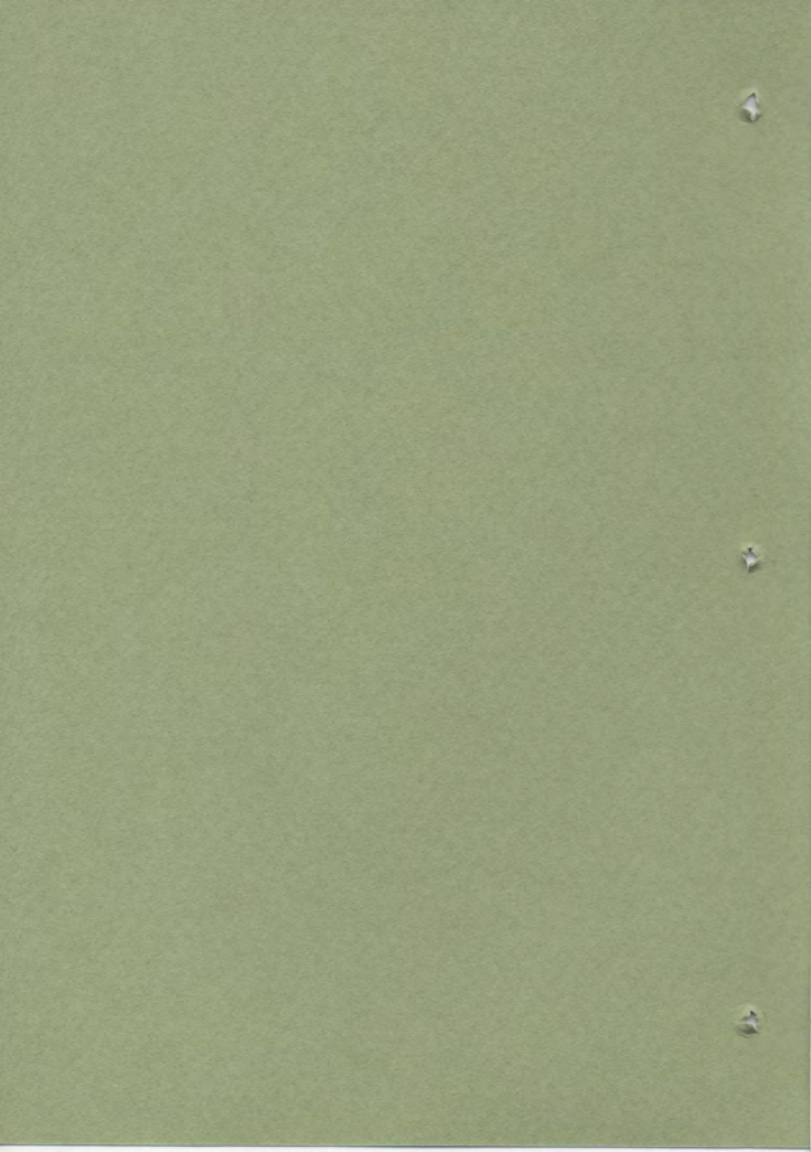
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Isa Down is an artist, writer, nurse, and mother living in the Rocky Mountains. She finds inspiration for all her endeavors in nature. Isa's art is a whimsical take on the beauty of nature.

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