

# Beyond Where the Snow Falls

Jeff Witkin

September 1991  
to Jim  
Marwan  
gratitude for just being  
JH

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To my ex-wife for her love that brought me all the way to here.

With gratitude to Tom Clausen, John Stevenson, towpath,  
and vincent tripi for critical commentary and  
encouragement, and to Avalokitesvara for insight and  
infinite compassion.

Elizabeth Searle Lamb's poem originally appeared in  
Frogpond and is used with her permission.



Turning down the lamp  
turning it out  
the dark is luminous

Elizabeth Searle Lamb



lightning—  
a cloud splits  
the harvest moon



perennials  
for my wife of thirty years  
... not knowing it's over

noon sun  
pale stalks of an unknown grass  
part with their frost

cold november night—  
she adds another  
reason for divorce

autumn chill—  
without its hanging plant  
the chain clinks

dusk—  
the pine's small silhouette  
blown by the wind

after we sign  
down to nickels and pennies  
a wedding band drops

moving day  
the framed ketoobah\*  
in an empty room

\* a Jewish marriage contract



first day in group—  
around the circle  
different pairs of feet

in my new room  
a paddle for the kayak  
i don't yet own

deep snow  
all the tracks  
back to the barn

separated—  
we continue our tradition  
of misunderstanding

silence on the phone . . .  
at every window  
mid-december's darkness

one for dinner—  
breaking the chopsticks  
in two

the clock  
that chimed in our home—  
raising the weights



the dark road—  
a light in the window  
of my child's room

a bunting returns  
where the river ran  
snow curves along

birds find birds  
on a night branch  
winter twilight

a candle goes dark—  
flame through the center  
has left its trace

. . . snow filling footprints the path ahead

alone—  
the wooden buddha sits  
with its shadow

snowmelt  
a space opens  
around the rock



where the river goes—  
a kayak follows  
the sun's path

divorce imminent—  
beyond where the snow falls  
i open the sunroof

magnolia blossoms  
about to appear—  
soft spring rain





