cating our hopeful message and implementing our most practical goals.

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References


ALEXIS EASLEY

To Dorothy Wordsworth

When I stood between those black walls, peered out the window at your wild garden, I could imagine how ivy and foxglove drew you out of yourself and into the rocky valleys, walking ten miles per day, Grasmere to Ambleside, writing thought in motion.

On your page the lake dazzled with shifts in light and cloud, silver moon or damp sun. Back at the cottage you mended shirts by lamplight, then stitched sentences with thread of beeswax and tallow.

Only later, when you moved to your brother’s house and wheeled his gravel walks, did you feel confined. How did you fall into buttoned up poses, the maiden aunt, when inside you must have wandered at ridge-top, words spinning at your feet?

There would be no one to walk with you, to see the cataract through your eyes.

It wasn’t until last summer, when I finally walked your path, trudging through cow gate and muddy field, that I was able to know what led you to walk and to write: it was a way of defeating stillness.

Alexis Easley’s poetry appears earlier in this volume.