

KRISTIN BERGER

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Walking the Wrack Line

Step gingerly, daughter, on the playa crust,  
where ancient waves heaved their secret loads  
so many storms ago. See how wind spills  
over Slide Mountain to varnish basalt  
into gemstones, and alkali spires survive  
like sandcastles without moats?

Coyote always knows the way to water  
through shifting constellations of debris.  
She weaves around greasewood, feathers  
and bone, maps that delicate necklace,  
walks on, as if meant for the entire range.

Child, these are stranded times,  
your birth-waters a long-gone ocean.  
But here is a seam the world has devised for us  
to pace like a story told to its beginning—  
before rain curtains the sun, and the lake returns,  
and we let all our nests float helplessly away.



## ABOUT KRISTIN BERGER

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Kristin Berger is the author of *For the Willing* (Finishing Line Press 2008). Recent work of hers has appeared in *Camas*, *Cirque*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Terrain.org*, and *Windfall*. She lives in Portland, Oregon, and hosts a poetry reading series at the local farmers market. Her website is located at [kristinberger.wordpress.com](http://kristinberger.wordpress.com).

