

CAROL SMALLWOOD

There Were Only

a few lights on in the library, no car tracks in the parking lot,
a gentle rain reinforcing the nose as the most elemental of
the senses. It was a much needed rain that could be too late
for crops—a neighbor saying corn ears were very small.
So much rain early spring and then the lushness turned brittle
brown.

Maybe there weren't any car tracks in the parking lot because
of the rain but when I reached the library, a couple said it was
closed. It was sad to think of computers blinking in the empty
library like solitary lighthouses.

I lift my face to capture the rain of childhood and failing,
remember the earth is covered mostly with water and we know
less about oceans than the moon. And wondered how much
wonder is lost in knowing.

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ABOUT CAROL SMALLWOOD

Carol Smallwood is the author of *Water, Earth, Air, Fire, and Picket Fences* (Lamar University Press 2014), and *In Hubble's Shadow* (forthcoming from Shanti Arts); she is also the co-editor, with Christine Redman-Waldeyer, of *Writing After Retirement* (Rowman & Littlefield 2014). Her work has been published in *RHINO*, *Drunken Boat*, *World Literature Today*, *The Fear of Monkeys*, and *Hospital Drive*. She received an MLS in library science from Western Michigan University, and now a retired librarian, she works as an editor. She lives in Michigan.

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