

WENDY TAYLOR CARLISLE

Spell: an Ozark Sonnet

The coyotes cry on the hillside, / their yip, eerie as the world
before the first word, a river / of noise, a babble that seems to boil
from inside my ear, so deep / in my skull that it becomes a voice
chiding or reading a beloved / book aloud, wrapping itself in
the surrounding darkness / that has fallen abruptly,
outside and in, until that oracle / cry resolves into instructions,
joins my woods chanting, / becomes another living spell

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wendy Taylor Carlisle is the author of *Reading Berryman to the Dog* (Jacaranda Press 2000), *Discount Fireworks* (Jacaranda Press 2008), *The Mercy of Traffic* (Unlikely Books 2019), and *On the Way to the Promised Land Zoo* (Cyberwit 2019). Her work has appeared in *Star 82 Review Pocket Poems* (2019) and *Fiolet and Wing* (Liminal Books 2019), as well as *Rattle*, *pacificREVIEW*, *Barzakh*, and elsewhere. She lives in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and can be found online at wendytalorcarlisle.com.

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