

MARK HUMMEL

Last Days

like
hen-pecked shards
uprooted by pigs
scavenging in a bone garden—
these last days of childhood.

we scaled two miles high
and looked a long way down
for what was left behind.

sometimes the mountain
is more
beautiful
from a distance shrouded
in blue
haze, snow and ice less
treacherous, trees a camouflage
jest, not this
sharp knuckle-ridge rock
like the vertebrae of a skeleton,
not this stormy approaching sky
not this cold
longing
for memories.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Hummel is the author of *In the Chameleon's Shadow* (fluidstone press 2014) and *Lost And Found: Stories* (Elk Bay Books 2014). His work has appeared in *Dogwood*, *Zone 3*, *Talking River*, *Fugue*, *Per Contra*, and elsewhere. He also serves as the editor of *bioStories*. Mark lives in Montana and can be found online at www.markhummelwriter.com.

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