

JEANNE WAGNER

Jungfrau

After we climb above those clichéd green valleys
I think of as the kind of places where contentment
tucks itself in and ambiance becomes a daily god,

the tram finally stops, so we can step down, witness
those cold peaks, their sheer penetration of the sky,
feel the tightened air, a clean scent I've always loved,

its coolness filling up my lungs like a second youth.
The guide explains how last year they spread tarps
over some of the glaciers to keep them from melting,

the way Victorian ladies wore hats and veils out of doors
to preserve the untouched-by-light look so fashionable
then, the white petals of their skin shunning the wind.

We're gutschier now, our faces tilting toward the Jungfrau,
our arms lifted above our heads as if we're worshipping,
so I can see the way our fingers form two parallel corners

around our phones and cameras, the square shape we make
when describing the size of something lost but once loved,
something we thought we could hold forever in our hands.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeanne Wagner is the author of *The Zen-Piano Mover* (NFSPS 2004), *In the Body of Our Lives* (Sixteen Rivers Press 2011), and *Everything Turns Into Something Else* (Grayson Press 2020). Her work has also appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *North American Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry*, and elsewhere. She serves on the boards for the Marin Poetry Center and the Sixteen Rivers collective press. She lives in Kensington, California, and can be found online at www.sixteenrivers.org/authors/jeanne-wagner/.

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