

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 [wendytaylorcarlisle.com](http://wendytaylorcarlisle.com).

HERON TREE

1 March 2020

[herontree.com/carlisle1](http://herontree.com/carlisle1)

