

EVA SPARKS TAYLOR

I Should Have Known

The yearning to return erases
the wisdom of Gissing's words:
"It is better to revisit only
in imagination the places
which have charmed us."

"Go!

Go back!" my heart insisted,
"walk by the brook where the willows lean,
and overhead the singing birds
balance in beauty on the bough,
and on the bank the violets grow."

But it is different now . . .

In memory one is never lonely,
no scene is changed that the heart retraces.

This journey mars the memory
for you are gone,
and I returned alone.

It was not the singing birds I came to hear,
nor leaning willows that I came to see.

I should have known.