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## Survivor

Dave Seter

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## Survivor

High above the ore mines of Palmerton,  
I never expected it, hiking.

But when the air sang in my ear,  
I knew the bullet came close.

I hugged the forest floor and shouted  
until the rifles stopped popping.

Far down canyon a ricochet of sound  
clattered among zinc-rich rock.

One last stray shot out of season,  
and a chickadee flushed from rhododendron.

My nose rested on decayed leaves  
in the attitude of the routinely hunted—

deer that dodge and freeze—plentiful  
among mountain laurel and hemlock.

Who was I to complain? Adrenaline  
makes the heart pump faster,

dusts off the complacency of hiking  
unguarded into October.

*Dave Seter*

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DAVE SETER's first collection of poems, the chapbook *Night Duty*, was published in 2010 by Main Street Rag Publishing Company. He has lived on both coasts of the United States; he currently resides in Sonoma County, California.

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*"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."*—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

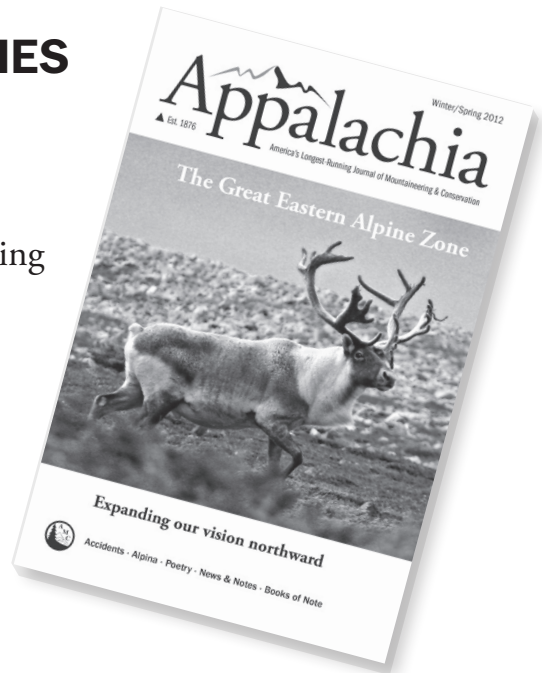
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