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On Earth As It Is

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FOR YOU

Adam Jordan

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on earth as it is

prayer as story, story as prayer

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photo by matthew simmons

FOR YOU

Adam Jordan

FOR YOU,

I checked the bush. I tried the sky, the crickets' legs, soccer fields, and apples' cores. I stood under thunderclouds, kitchen counters, catechism teachers inside superstores. I studied Crusoe's isolation after Harold and the Purple Crayon. I drew the paths marshmallows melt through hot chocolate, the priest moves his arms in, venetian blinds rise up, and morninglights the staircase. I multiplied myself in mirrors, in thought, in prayer, my doubts by my books, like blue-jays by the bird-feeders. I took the long walk home without a coat, the tennis court oath with twins who moved away. I collected a deck of leaves and needles, recorded the chances of each commercial, laminated mustard seeds from neighbors' gardens. I studied age rings from my climbing trees and the planets' ellipses. I found nothing as deep as the vacuum of space that pleases me best. My only conviction that lasts, I remember a picture taken by Voyager as it left our solar system, looking back, where the Earth appears faintly as a bluish-green period at the end of a paragraph.

Adam Jordan works with Autistic kids in rural Pennsylvania and is an atheist. He once thought he might become a priest.

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