MARILYN GEAR PILLING

If You Know Apples

If you know apples you know that a McIntosh bunches up to its stem, swells so close it nearly touches, you'd never mistake it for a Spartan, shaped like a bowl at its navel, if you know apples you know that the flesh of a Spy is tinged amber, like leaves after frost, that a Talman Sweet is not sweet but unique like an old Appalachian woman who is wholly herself, if you cut apples lengthwise you find the part you don't eat, the star holding seeds, a star at the heart of all apples.

If you know apples you know it was October when the snake spoke, the leaves burning primary red, maple scenting each breath, exile and sin unconceived, it was October and Eve only wanted that plump mystery in her palm, crisp spray on her palate, the star in white flesh, the starfull of seeds, she only wanted to know apples.

Marilyn Gear Pilling's poetry and short fiction has appeared in Quarry, The Fiddlehead, The Antigonish Review, Prairie Fire, The Malahat Review, and Canadian Fiction Magazine. Her collection of short fiction, My Nose is a Gherkin Pickle Gone Wrong, was published by Cormorant Books in 1996.

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