



Debbie Strange Prairie Interludes



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In memory of my father, Ewen MacKenzie,
who taught me to love the land

Prairie Interludes

a wet spring
dark furrows seeded
with stars

night runes a scattering of porcupine quills

rangeland
webs of rain connect
the thistles

thunderheads above the prairie red-tailed hawks

earthworm
the
raised
shadows
of
my
scars

boundary lines
every fence post topped
with a baseball cap

solar flares
a spill of buttercups
in the meadow

rusted rails
a meadowlark with the sun
in its throat

dusk-to-dawn the low anthems of great grey owls

porch swing
songs where we least
expect them

empty well
the steady thrum
of katydids

cloudless sky
a pelican's pouch
full of light

autumn sunrise
a beaver's fur glistens
with aspen dust

dandelion seeds
I smooth mother's hair
across the pillow

fading dreams . . .
the golden smoke
of tamaracks

harvesting night
an arc of moondust
from the auger

prize pumpkins
our hayrack buckles
with light

washboard road every now and again not

fog weaving
between fence posts
a coyote's song

antelope
the humming of wind
in barbed wire

prairie dusk
the last braid of geese
comes undone

frozen trough
I cup the warm breath
of my horse

rimed fence
the wind and cattle
change direction

snowy field
the owls we thought
were stones

Award Credits

“antelope”

Honourable Mention, World Haiku Competition 2015

“cloudless sky”

Editors' Choices, *The Heron's Nest* 18:2, 2016

“dandelion seeds”

Selected Haiku, Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum Haiku Contest 2018

“fading dreams”

Runner-up, The Haiku Calendar Competition 2018

“fog weaving”

Honourable Mention, Griffin-Farlow Haiku Award 2015

“frozen trough”

First Place, Sharpening the Green Pencil Haiku Contest 2019

“prairie dusk”

Commended, Iris Haiku Contest 2019

“prize pumpkins”

Honourable Mention, International Haiku Contest on the Theme of the Gourds 2019

“rimed fence”

Honourable Mention, The British Haiku Society Awards 2017

“snowy field”

Honourable Mention, Irish Haiku Society International Haiku Competition 2017

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