



Geologist in Love

Cortney Cameron



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Appalachians

When o'er the earth I see them rise,
By meters, bluegreen, through the skies,
With their flanks, my spirits climb
By ten mill'on years at a time—
Back to the churning of great continents,
Which joining, bore—the earth was bent—
These gentle gods, which wrinkled, stand,
As watchful guardians of this land,
Who from their bodies, bleeding, built,
The East Coast, from the sea, by silt,
Across three thousand thousand centuries
Which link a trilobite and me—
My chest grows tight, my vision blurs,
And in my soul, an eon stirs.

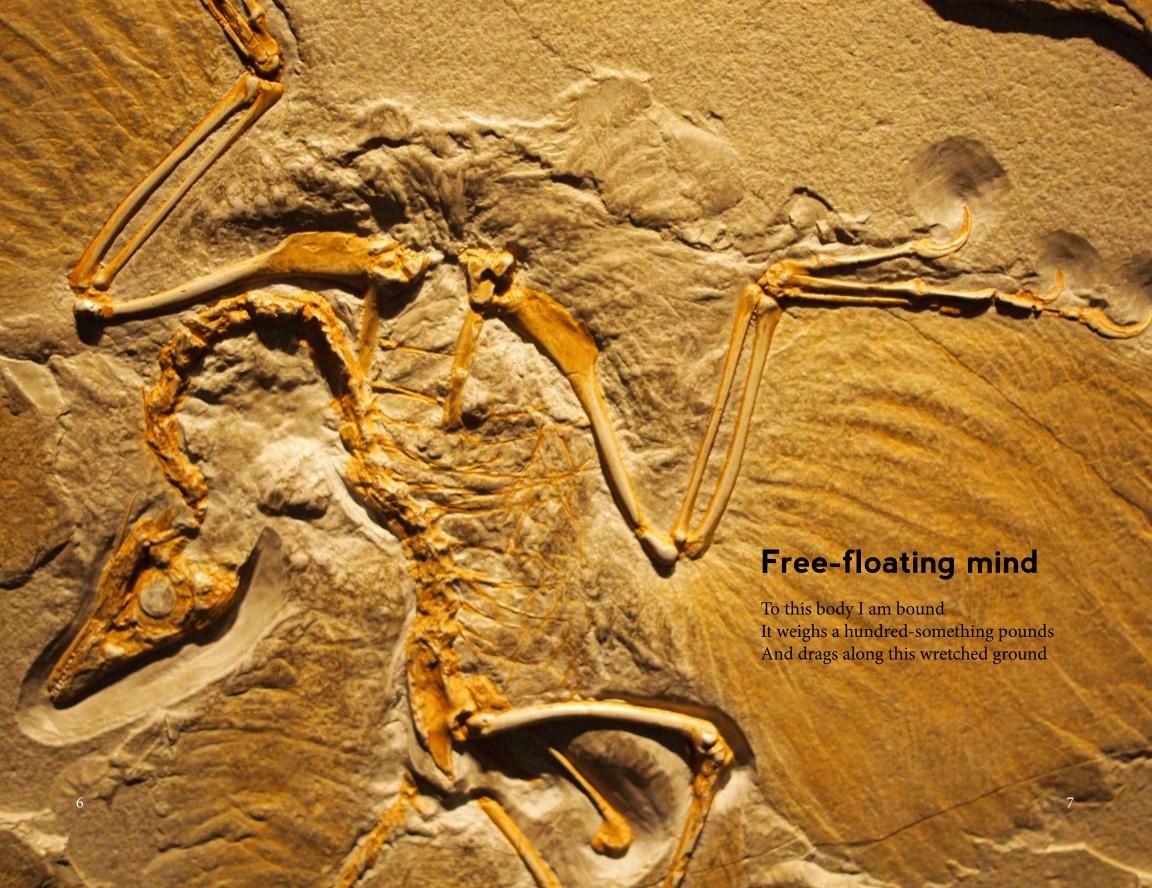


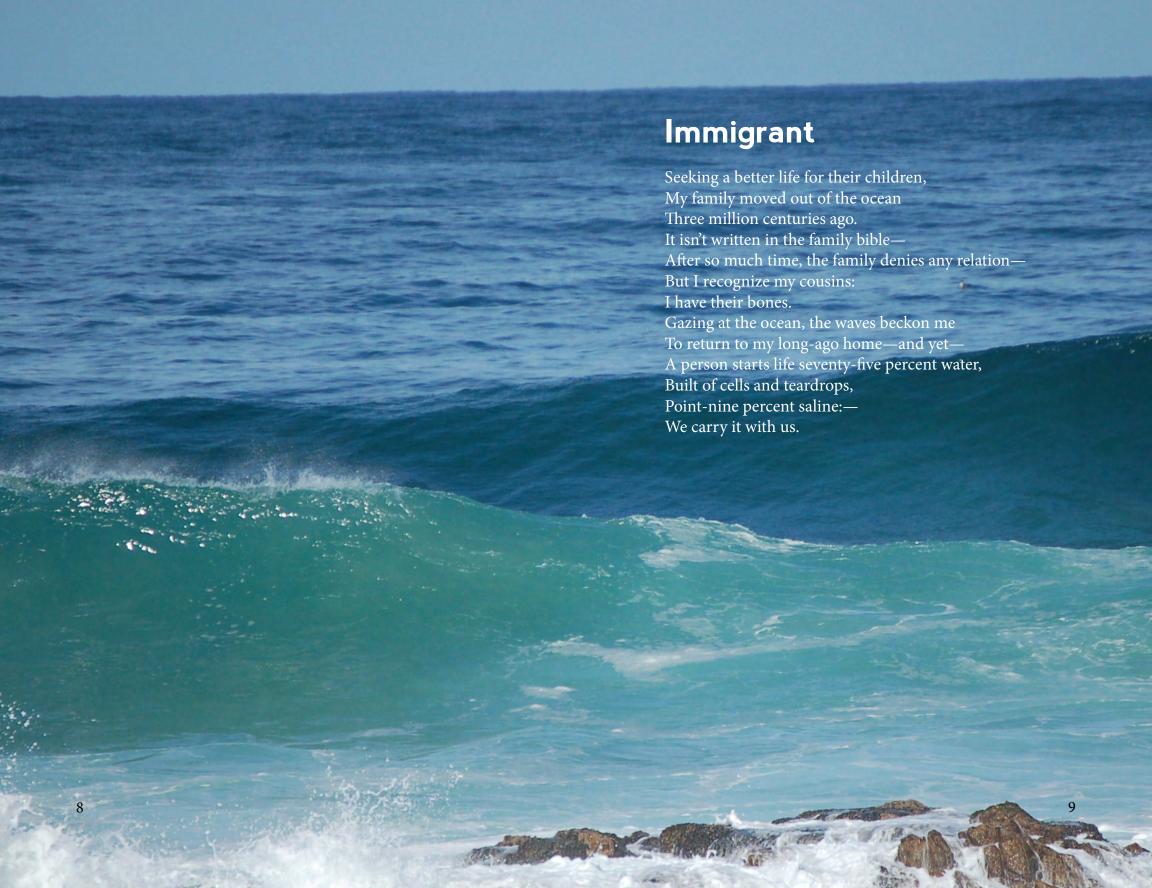


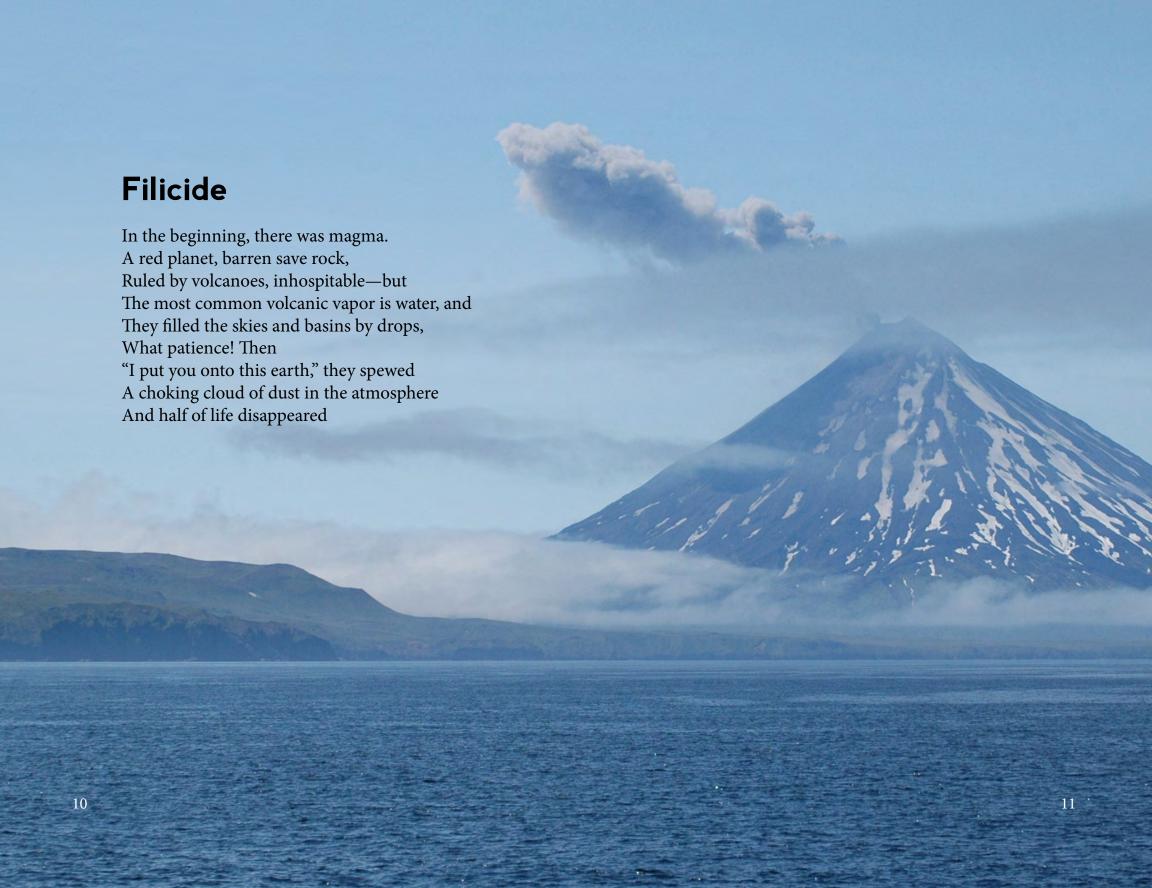
Primordial

From the first cell in the seething sulfuric seas,
Existence is to struggle.
Squinting up through the water,
Sometimes we see it—happiness—
And reaching, we scratch the surface.
Will you trade all your days for the film under your nails?

4







Hurricane

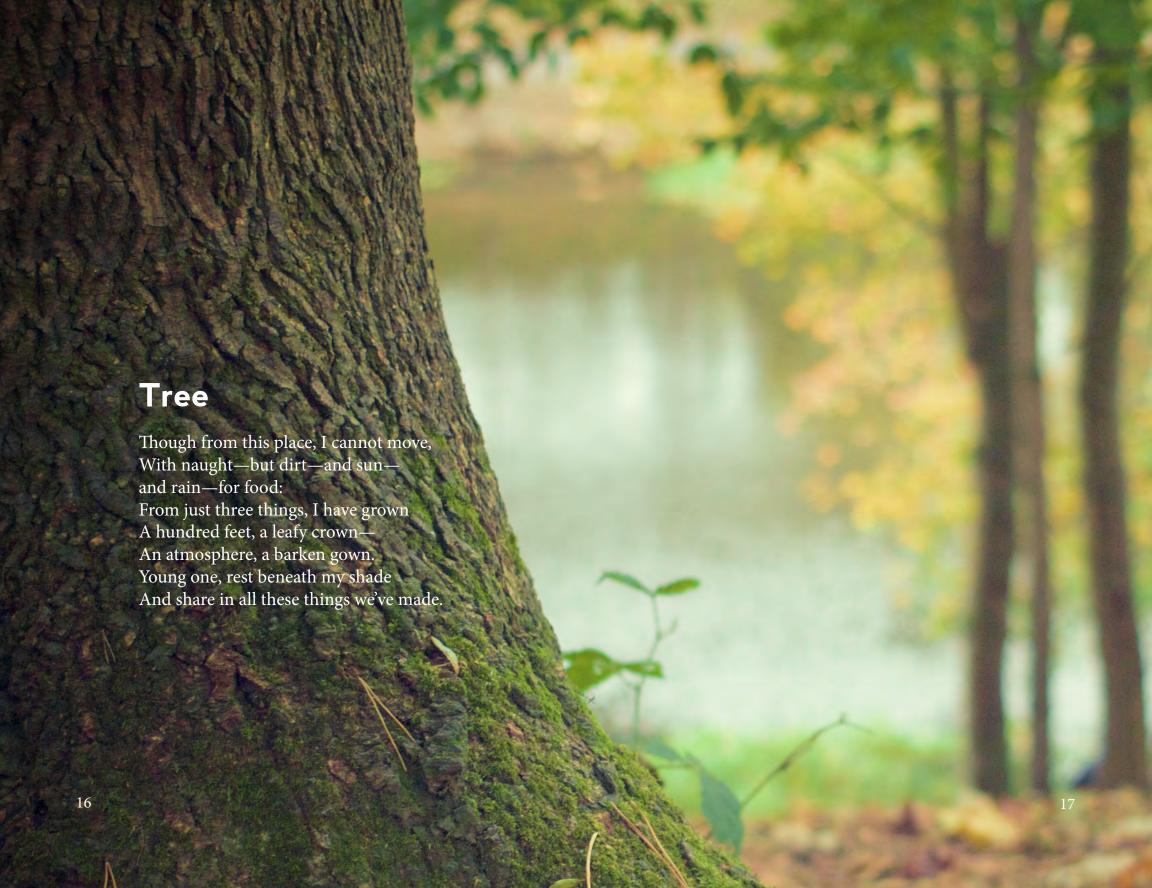
Categorical chaos, curling—
Counterclockwise, northward twirling—
Continent and sea bestride—
Stratosphere and earth collide.



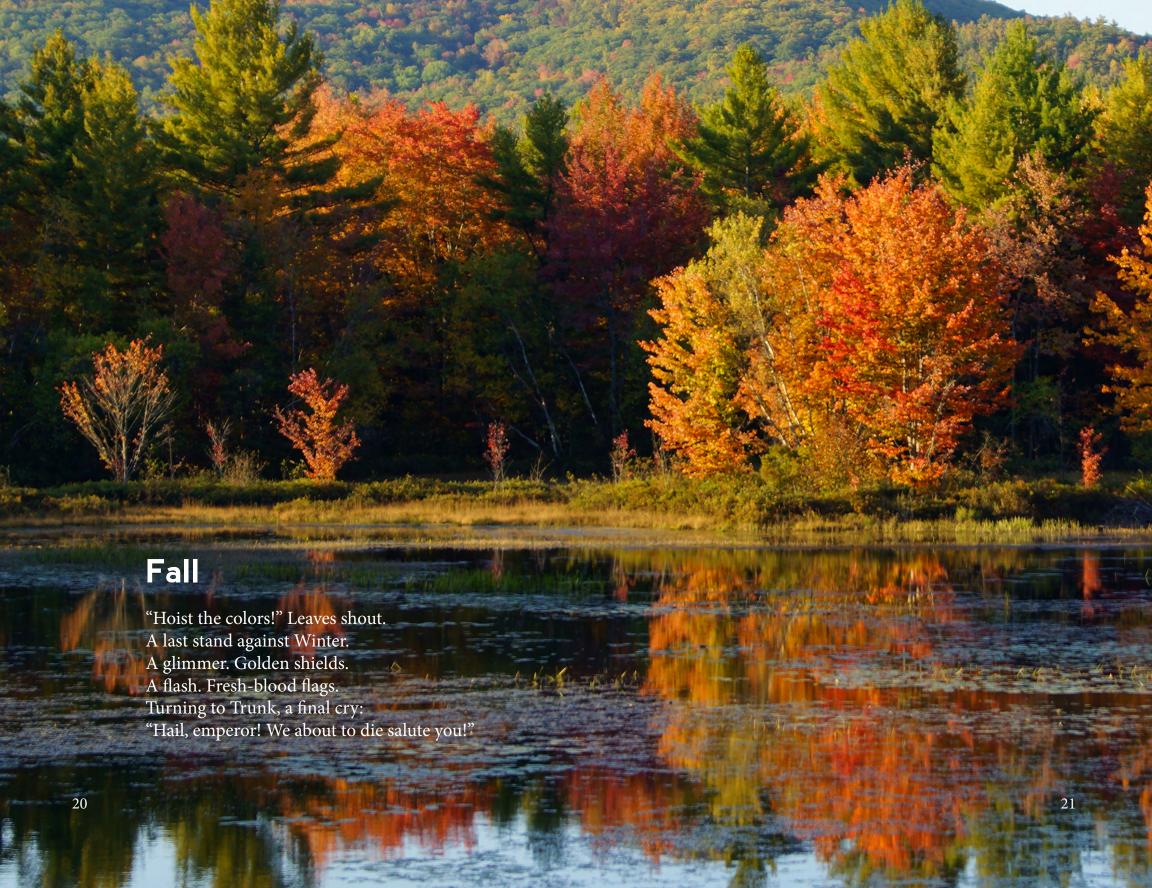
Once I heard a robin sing
To a girl who wasn't listening
He looked at her with tilted head
And purple wing
And breast of red

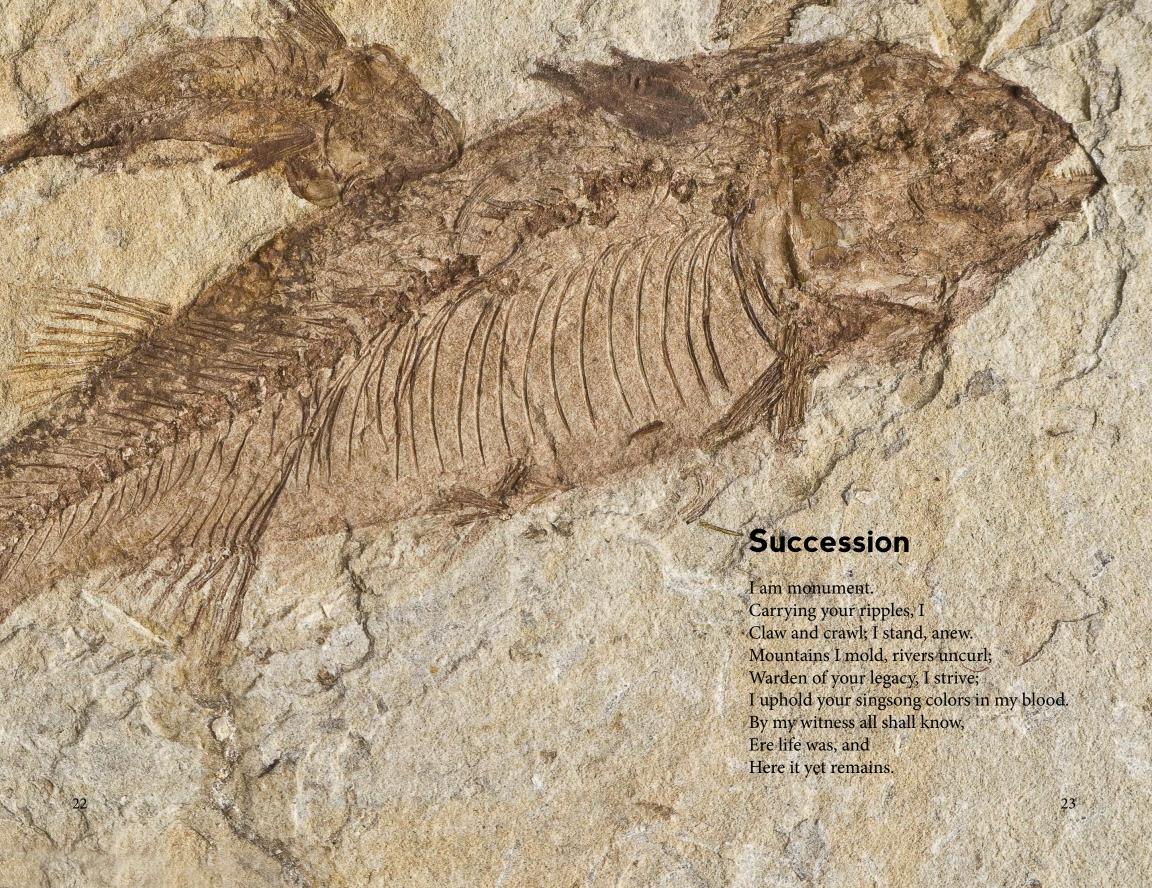
Look my way and I'll go home,
Back home, back home,
Where the wild wind blows
Look my way and I'll go home,
Back home, where the wild wind blows















On the Shoulders

On the mountain,
I am a grain:
Lain atop,
Another grain.
And so too I shall be the hand,
On which a newborn grain shall stand,
Upward building, one by one—
And though I shalln't behold the sum—
It is enough, for me, just knowing:
I am a grain,
On a mountain
Growing.

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Appalachians

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Pahoehoe

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Primordial

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Free-floating mind

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Immigrant

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Hurricane

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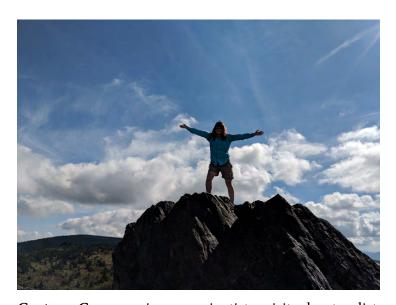
A View of the River

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On the Shoulders

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Cortney Cameron is a geoscientist, spiritual naturalist, and creative and scientific writer. She holds a bachelor's from Duke University and a master's from North Carolina Central University, where she was an NSF Graduate Research Fellow in Geoscience. Her work has been featured in *The Appalachian Journal* and *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*. She is the co-author of *Nature Spirit Walks Tarot: 22 Sensory Activities to Enjoy in Nature* (www.naturespiritwalks.com) and the *Catians: Resurrection* comic (www.catians.com).

