



WILKES UNIVERSITY



etruscan press

Trophic Cascade

Everything on earth
has blossom:

A pale pink
or purple passionflower that
gives life to the hummingbird
or bee—

or as the bee
to the fuchsia—
or as the fuchsia
to the seed.

Even wolves
in their bloodstained fur
give life:

snarling—
running
into racks of ribs—
tearing and pulling—
ripping down,
around,
onto the ground,

yet out of the wolves
come blossom.

How could such viciousness bring virtue?

When vegetation is lost within
the stomach of the elk
or whitetail—
when the flourished life
of the forest floor
is no more—

Then out
of the wolves' kill
sprout aspen....
emerge the beavers, and
the cottonwood:
shrikes soar.

ETRUSCAN PRESS
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Annual One-Page Award Winner June 2014

AHREND TORREY
Judged by author Remica Bingham

“Nothing attested, everything sung”

- H. L. Hix