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January 11, 2012: Natalie Giarratano published in Hayden's Ferry Review.

Department of English

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Wednesday, January 11, 2012

[Natalie Giarratano published in Hayden's Ferry Review.](#)

Congratulations to Natalie Giarratano, poetry Ph.D. candidate, one of her poems has been selected for publication in Hadyden's Ferry Review, Fall/Winter 2011-2012, Issue 49.

"Asena, the Gray Wolf, to Tu Kueh after Many Years"

by Natalie Giarratano

1

I've dented the side of an iron
mountain with my head. What can

I say: out of frustration. Tried to
hide it with tree bark but honey

nothing hides itself well enough
once a whole empire has walked

out of a woman, this woman who
doesn't mind doing all the work

and respects that you are all torso
and pretty face and the father

of legions of limbs, but sometimes
I do wish I'd found you before they

removed your arms and legs,
so I'd have something with which

to pin you down. These lupine muscles.
This longing for reciprocated touch.

I'm sure the flesh of your belly is some
divine window that I have yet to learn

to look into at the people after us—
children with their hearts licked clean.

2

I sense this is all dissolving. The smell
of your skin on my fur is almost extinct.

Our bodies have stopped communicating.
No guts to spill, not even to spew.

Sometimes I think of the coldness of these
metal Altais. Mine and yours. So cold

with our lack of want for what gravity
owns. In this sedentary life you have no

choice but to claim, even storms that fly
down to us from the mountains

into these valleys of wasting away
are miraculous. The lightening awakens

instincts that have been forgotten
in this dale with no memory that tries to erase

us with its silence, its slow, deep breaths,
its green sighs. But instinct eventually

comes back to me, like misunderstanding.
Say: Loyal dog. Where else could I be at home?

Posted by bethlynn at [12:46 PM](#)