

Persephone in America

Alison Townsend

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Persephone in America (Southern Illinois University Press, 978-0-8093-2896-3) is poet Alison Townsends exploration of mothers, daughters, loss, and love. In this Crab Orchard Series winner, Townsend, who lost her own mother as a girl, is Persephone, the “one caught in the dark throat of the caverns” of grief and memory. She sees Persephone and her own girlhood reflected back to her everywhere—at the mall, at the hairdresser, and in her students, “the girl in braids standing / so close beside us I can almost feel her breathing.”

(July / August 2009)

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