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# An Intense Application of the Principles of Grace

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# An Intense Application of the Principles of Grace

## **Abstract**

Believe grass-blades shine every time you see them as when  
you saw them first, before your memories began  
to record. Believe in the half-tree hidden behind  
the hill's crest, slender trunk and lean branches' spread peeling  
in mothwing membrane. Believe in needles that stitched  
your shoes, in page-trimmers, fork molds, the garneted  
holes inside schist. Believe in the nails that hold your walls.

## **Keywords**

poetry, belief, faith

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## An Intense Application of the Principles of Grace

Lauren Leslie

Believe grass-blades shine every time you see them as when you saw them first, before your memories began to record. Believe in the half-tree hidden behind the hill's crest, slender trunk and lean branches' spread peeling in mothwing membrane. Believe in needles that stitched your shoes, in page-trimmers, fork molds, the garneted holes inside schist. Believe in the nails that hold your walls.

Pegs in logs. The linings of others' coats. Connecting solder-joints and polishing gem-dust. Believe sight exists. That every word you haven't said has changed the speed of sound. That horizon is different from sky only in its color. Believe when you stand your bones will hold you. You are a dark speck in granite: still molten, venerated, forsaking separation.

Believe a starfish, the next time you see one, will fold to a bulb you can plunge in the earth. It will sprout to a lily in months. The ringing pulse you hear is a train, a coal train, a train attempting to stop

in the orange glow of the sorting yard lights, a train

running across a bridge as wind streams under along  
the river and through the iron bars, transported  
by train. Believe in jails made of tin. In curative  
properties of tobacco. In the books you read  
as a child, every one, especially in

the antagonists, especially in the speed  
of the dogs, the diet of rabbits, the colors  
of coats, the number of newly planted trees.

Lauren Leslie spent her adolescence on a micro-farm in the woods of Interior Alaska. Today she lives in Western Montana, where she writes, teaches, and travels the west. She earned her MFA from the University of Montana in 2009.

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