

THE ESSENCE OF HEMLOCKS

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Seize a handful of hemlocks,
and pull yourself along
those massive rocks.

Stumble behind his stable steps,
and lie to yourself:
trust your body.

Strip seedlings of their needles,
to seep humiliation
from their wounds.

Scratch against those rocks,
and hope he doesn't hear...
hit the ground.

Scream for him to leave,
let you wither in the next frost,
alongside those broken hemlocks.

Softly place your cold,
purple knuckles in his ears.

Tell him to listen.