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## Living North of Yachats, West of Friends

Walter Pavlich

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*Walter Pavlich*

LIVING NORTH OF YACHATS, WEST OF FRIENDS

*for Melinda*

Days were lush with boring intensity  
walking the sand after high tide  
the one great driftwood hulk moving  
further and further down the beach.  
Sometimes I would leave the door  
open all night, rain darkening  
the concrete walkway, moistening  
my carpet. I could only write letters  
after midnight, same message in every one—  
“I’m all too alone in this one, but don’t write back.”  
Walking outside in my slippers  
I parted the herd of rhododendrons  
looking north then south for headlights  
placed the envelopes in the wet metal box.  
And jogging back inside I’d face  
the bathroom mirror I’d covered  
with my blue jacket where I learned  
to brush my teeth, shave and live without it.