

Fall 1984

Spring Comes to the Clearwater

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Spring Comes to the Clearwater

Outside Kooskia, Idaho
where the mill closed last week,
April stirs in the roots of grass
as if everyone
had work.

Daffodils don't give a damn
that the hardware store
closed forever last month
or that some hardluck logger
shot the guy next door.

The river blunders along
leaving boulders to bleach in the sun
like the vertebrae of
long dead animals
thrown by the roadside.

Casual brown butterflies
quietly fling themselves
at windshields.

About those boys who
liquored themselves into a fatal
bend of the river yesterday,
the crocus, white and yellow,
have nothing to say.