

Spring 2012

## The Cradle of All There Is

Adam Clay

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

Clay, Adam (2012) "The Cradle of All There Is," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 76 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss76/12>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

## THE CRADLE OF ALL THERE IS

It had not been raining  
that day or the day before,  
  
though the forecast  
was mostly grim most  
  
of the time, as if the talk  
of rain might keep it away  
  
or at least harbor  
a bit of hope for those  
  
outside, such as a friend  
I saw on campus  
  
that morning, an acquaintance,  
really, and we talked  
  
briefly about the leaves,  
the fires burning, and even  
  
the way the days are named  
by the glow of light  
  
above their horizons, which  
led me to ask her what she  
  
was teaching that semester,  
but she told me she wasn't  
  
teaching, which was fortunate  
because she had found out the day

before that she had cancer,  
news that changed the name

of that day in such a way that  
I didn't know where we were

or who we are. Of course,  
I asked what we, my wife and I,

could do for her and she  
told me to have another baby in such

a way that it seemed like putting one  
foot in front of the next or like handing

the husk of a season to the next,  
saying: "Here, this is yours because

you will know better than I what  
to do with it and what to call it."