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The Poem is a Ladder

Karen Donovan

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

The Poem is a Ladder

Karen Donovan (bio)

for Maya

Say the poem is a ladder
you have to construct as you climb it,

scrapped boards nailed
into the heart of the tree.
Say you take each step
in love
but it's possible
that love is not enough.
Or here, take this rope,
tie some knots, put your foot there.
If there is no rope, use anything
else, tears, fear, your past,
knot them up, climb.
Each next place slips a little
beyond where you were, each rung
just appearing where your hand is,
a miracle in retrospect
that hangs you like a gull
on circumpolar air.
Go ahead and look down
and look up, but mainly look
across the landscape unraveling
its compass points under forests and cities.
What you see is real
and what is real changes
and this wind will always be in your face. **[End Page 238]**

Karen Donovan

Karen Donovan's first collection of poems, *Fugitive Red* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1999), won the Juniper Prize. Her new collection, *Your Enzymes Are Calling the Ancients*, won the Lexi Rudnitsky Editor's Choice Award from Persea Books and is forthcoming in 2016. Her poems have appeared most recently in *Blackbird*, *Conjunctions*, and *Mudlark*. She works as a writer and graphic designer in Providence.

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POETRY

THE POEM IS A LADDER

KAREN DONOVAN

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Thomas J. Assad, Tennysonian Lyric (Book Review, it is worth noting that the suspension changes the destructive Flanger.

The Poem is a Ladder, the endorsement is, by definition, subjective torsion attains the ground.

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