

A photograph of a forest floor. In the foreground, several white trillium flowers with yellow centers are in bloom, surrounded by lush green ferns. The background shows a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a soft, dappled light filtering through the canopy.

Rural Rhapsody

sun-dappled canopy over the path
leaf and branch bending in breeze
raccoons and skunks and a running fox
scarlet splendor of autumn trees

twilight thrush-call as night draws near
white-petaled trilliums beside a trail
whip-poor-will calling from tumbled brush
lilt and lift of coyotes' wail

deer-tracks dotting the garden soil
moon-cast shadows, stark against snow
whispery hiss of wind-whipped sleet
cat on the hearth, near fire's glow

—Lisa Timpf