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In the dampness of my place I lie stretched Above, the water trickles Out of the light. Into the darkness. Rock walls rise tall Beside my prostrate figure And a mossy, verdant ceiling Confronts my face. Tiny black bugs crawl In the moss and A slug glides painfully homeward. Before me is the openness of the air With the trees. The sweet grass. The wild flowers And the rushing fall of water Over the bare Butler cliffs. Smells of spring life Commix as they reach me. Then, all at once. I remember my cave In another time. Broken icicles appear at its entrance, Reaching for the snowy ground. There are bare tree branches Grasping the edges Of the bright, blue sky. The waterfall is but a trickle now. Inside, I lie on the frozen ground And gaze at the bare rocks Of my ceiling. The rock walls At my sides Are no longer moss-grown But grey with frozen mud. I curl up tight against the cold, But recall That it is not wintertime At all.

Val Evans '76