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## Equinox

Joan Byles

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# Equinox

*(At the solstice  
the sun seems to pause  
before returning)*



Joan Montgomery Byles studied at London and Oxford universities and received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University. She has published articles on psychoanalytic interpretations of Shakespeare in *Imago*, *University of Hartford Studies in Literature*, and *Shakespeare Newsletter* and has contributed a chapter to the forthcoming *Literary Uses of Psychoanalysis* (University of Texas Press). Currently Dr. Byles is an instructor in the Department of English at Syracuse University.

The sun, without pause  
at 12:22 a.m. crosses  
the equator;

the spinning earth tilts towards Spring;  
Orion adjusts his belt,  
spilling cascades of fragrant stars.

Waking into  
the landscape of myself  
it is also Spring, but

contours have changed,  
new bearings  
focus me;

slopes and streams I relied on  
just being there  
in every season

are mountains and hills,  
deep valleys, swirling rivers;  
complicated country.

Stumbling on paths  
no Spring before  
has shown me,

mountains rise above me, vehement peaks;  
I fall locked, frozen, as if in a dream,  
through drifts of bluebells.

I wake and find a rare kingdom;  
primeval rivers of tall prairie grass,  
nesting bald eagles, crimson snakes, great white egrets,

Possessed and possessing,  
the vast blue peace of the sky  
pours me back into my new self.

—J.M. Byles