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Her Silhouette Against The Alpenglow James Tate

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James Tate

HER SILHOUETTE AGAINST THE ALPENGLOW

Climbing a mountain is very hard work so we just sat at the bottom of it and ate our picnic. Others came along and actually started to climb it. They were tough and strong but we still thought they were foolish, but refrained from telling them so. They were loaded down with so much equipment they could barely walk on level ground—ropes, sleeping bags, tents, hammers, pitons, lamps, food supplies, ice axes, oxygen masks—whereas for a picnic you can get everything you need into a basket—wine, cheese, salami, bread, napkins. "Marie," I said, "Do you still love me?" "Chuck you, Farley," she said, "and your whole famn family. You know I'll always love you. All's hotsie-dandy here, thank you very much."