

2023

Visitor (after Faith Shearin)

Andrea Rupp

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Recommended Citation

Rupp, Andrea (2023) "Visitor (after Faith Shearin)," *Calliope*: Vol. 35, Article 21.

Available at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/calliope/vol35/iss1/21>

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Visitor (*after Faith Shearin*)

Andrea Rupp

When we finally returned to the mountain
After six slow, miserable months in Hawaii

A rat snake fell from the attic into Mom's closet,
Flipping head over tail over head like a slinky

Onto the shoeboxes from Scotland and Spain,
Countries that had gone unopened for years.

It yanked down the sheer white curtains,
Slithered up antique wooden bedposts

Finally collapsing, exhausted, like my father
Must have, but on their white anniversary

Quilt, instead of the living room carpet.
AT 4AM, my grandfather hacked it dead

Like my mother asked. But the next day,
She said it must have been Dad

Welcoming us back home.