

GREGORY MARTIN

Learning Your Language

After September 11, 2001

Already, at sixteen months,
my son knows what the wolf says.
Do you know what the wolf says?
The sheep?
The little baby lamb?
What do you say
Daddy?
Howl. Bleat. Say something.
What kind of animal are you?
A hawk with hands in his pockets?
A heron in darkening water?
Say something.
Your son is listening.
He is learning your language.

Gregory Martin is the author of Mountain City, a memoir of a town of thirty in remote northeast Nevada. He lives with his wife and son in Albuquerque.