

GRANITE

Ruth Hadlow

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*Because what is left for us to say or to write
if in the end the most intense bodily adventures
will escape our sentences?*

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*Many things in the world have not been named;
and many things, even if they have been named,
have never been described.*

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*The holes were rusty, very roughly cut in the metal.
One hole had the word HOME written next to it in red.
The other had the word LOST.*

[magma]

absence
aggregate
attachment
attraction
colour
common
conditions
conglomerate
construction
conversation
cut
dis/location
document
dyke
facts
feldspar
fracture
fragment
grain
gravel
grus
hard
igneous
interlocking
intrusion
list
massive
partial melt
permeable
plane
quarry
quartz
sense
tombstone

[duſt]

endnotes
bibliography

[magma]

firstly, before everything else, there is the thing about the rock, and then there is the thing about lost – a lost rock. Dislocated, separated from shadow and compatriots – disappeared into who knows what fate or place. There is the thing about this rock – granite – and its geological characteristics, the cause and effect which brings about a certain rock or type of rock – in this case, granite – and there is also the thing about place – about place, relations with place, and characteristics – of self and place. The place where one came into relation with granite, the places specific to one's life – where cause and effect have taken place – bringing about certain characteristics of self – through what might be called the influence of place, as well as a variety of other experiences. There is also the thing about dislocation – where something or someone has become separated from their surroundings – from place of origin or residence, the place of relation and influence which shaped them – a dislocation which creates a shadow. A shadow which remains in place when the thing or oneself becomes dislocated, dislodged – lost from place. A place of specific origin or more recent abode – perhaps a number of places over a period

of time. Perhaps the state of being dislocated or lost or dislodged is more usual than the state of being in place – located, unlost. There is all of this and more. There is a love story – and an unlove story – as well as a conglomerate of other bits and pieces accumulated and lost along the way. The thing about the unlove story is that it is located in place – a non-granite place – and at the same time lost – missing while also being lodged – subterranean, buried and partially visible – much like the characteristics of the ragged limestone place where it resides. Another place of relation and what might be called influence which has shaped things and oneself in a particular way over a particular period of time – and where, although one is no longer located there, a shadow of that place with its relations and influence still exists in oneself – and a shadow resembling, or standing in for oneself remains in place there – continuously in relation to the unlove story, as well as to a number of other things and relations belonging to that place. The thing about the love story is that it is unlocated – not the same as dislocated, or located then lost – unlocated as in located in multiple places, both presently and in the past of the story of each self involved. It is unlocated in that it has no permanent place of abode – although each of those involved reside in specific places –