Alpenglow
Corinna German

A sacred time
Best experienced from a hammock after sunset
Or while scrubbing a sooty face
with icy creek water before sunrise
Or on mile five of backcountry’s unforgivable climb
while inhaling cedar and juniper notes—after sunset
Shining, radiating off of the backs of the elk herd
stealing back to black timber before sunrise
soft cow calls reach the pink-edged peaks
touching kestrel’s colorful wings
and I look at you, wishing we could remain,
in Paradise Valley’s
alluvial embrace