

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