**Place Lives & Breathes**  
Page Lambert & Laura Pritchett in Conversation

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**Place Lambert:** You know, Laura, about eight years ago when I left Wyoming, which has an incredibly supportive writing community, you were one of the first writers who reached out to me. Then, when I was asked to be a finalist judge for the Colorado Book Awards in 2006, I read your novel Sky Bridge, which ended up winning the WILLA Award for Fiction. Writing the West is the natural landscape in that novel and in your short-story collection Hell's Bottom, Colorado, is much different from the landscapes of my novels. In In 23 Mountains, I was aware that if I knew that if the two of us stood off the outer edges of our books, we would find kindred spirits thriving beneath. In Sky Bridge, the beekeeper Ed Monger says to Libby, “I think we should all be living more dangerous lives. We have to be careful, yes. But when we get too fearful, we become small.” I thought, “Laura lives life large too, and she takes emotional risks.” When someone reads my nonfiction work, they should all be living more dangerous lives. We have to be careful, yes. But when we get too fearful, we become small.

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What It Is Like

To break the silence or your newly acquired Ming vase, or raise my expectations and the flag over the Brooklyn Navy Yard. To employ a veritable army of accountants, or for your once awake faculties in coming to grips with the enemy, the notion that nothing outlasts our fecking perception of it.

And so on for eight pages astonishing in their virtuosity. North studied as a young man with Kenneth Koch and has much of his master’s humor, but he...