

## Carol Hamilton

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### For Children at the Magic Flute

Twice balcony seats and once  
a darkened church hall,  
the Queen's soprano acrobatics lost  
to them ... but a Snow White's forest,  
full of fright, surrounded us.  
A child in the pew in front of me  
stood to stare down evil  
over my shoulder, her eyes wide,  
surely seeing more than shadowy  
stained glass. Bradley at ten leaned  
over the balcony railing, refused  
my offer to leave at intermission.  
And Jamie, at that age  
and at an elaborate presentation,  
was bored by all but the sparkle  
of stagecraft. Yet she tolerated,  
as I, too, the final falderal.  
Dying Mozart was thrilled  
by its success, attended every night  
until he could no more.  
That dark woods, so full  
of threat and wonder, draws us,  
each and all, deep in to lean  
up against its pillowy breast.

## **Jotted Notes in the Margins**

In my enthusiasms pages  
turn thick  
with ever-more-ecstatic markings.  
He said  
no one can ever read a book  
I've read.  
My hieroglyphics serve me well,  
though,  
and I hate the paltry margins  
of Kindle.  
More like you, they are, lost  
in the past,  
words raced by and gone back  
into mystery  
of thoughts come and gone into ether.  
My treasures  
require much pumping up to stay,  
fireworks  
on a darkened winter sky.

## Dig Sites

Long since I sat  
with dust of ancient time  
Today I need  
to work at the edge  
of a cooking fire  
old bones, charcoal  
Navajo hunting site  
nothing to set  
an archeological world humming  
Just jawbone of rabbit  
(we brushed their teeth)  
red and black stones polished  
to perfect roundness  
hidden for games or counting  
This morning I leave  
coffee grounds, lay down  
a layer, send a sound wave  
to the edge of the universe  
to be exposed only  
with the softest of brushes

**Carol Hamilton**'s recent and upcoming publications include *Louisiana Review*, *Boston Literary Review*, *Hubbub*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Broad River Review*, *Caveat Lector*, *New Delta Review*, *Narrow Fellow*, *Bluestem*, *Sow's Ear Poetry*, *Tar River Review*, *Flint Hills Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *I-70 Review*, *U.S.1 Worksheet*, *Reed*, *Poem*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Albatross*, *Hash*, and others. She has published 17 books: children's novels, legends and poetry, most recently, *Such Deaths*. She is a former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma and has been nominated five times for a Pushcart Prize.