

*Notes for Survival in the Wilderness*

This is a wisdom-book, unparaphrasable wisdom. We are impelled to try to tell our souls how to survive, but find that such wisdom is contained in nearly indecipherable gnomic fragments. What we need must be plucked from fire: "Diffidence toward inward kind is a form of courtesy,/ a disposition which/ prevents that malady, even sin, of eating fire/ out of your own chimney." Every line of this book, refined by fire, moves toward "A solitude/ square with the world." I admire Eva Hooker's severe, pure, beautiful book tremendously.

Frank Bidart