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Medium

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MEDIUM

A wooden canoe with its varnished ribs, for instance. *Where arrre you?* Loon calling across the lake.

Kevlar or epoxy can be beautiful, the lack of weight on shoulders.

It is good to make a craft that will carry over lakes and rivers.

I should have worked with wood. Just that the guys in shop class seemed so dull.

I know a man whose father was a millman. He would come home smelling of whatever wood he was working with that day.

My friend and his brothers and sisters learned the smell of cherry, walnut, pine, oak.

I could carve a spoon so the grain would show across the hollow.

I could make a table for you to sit down to, that we could converse across.

Maybe the canoe factory in Peterborough is taking interns.

There would be no question of what I meant, no misinterpretation, embarrassment. A spoon, or a canoe.

-Alison Hicks Havertown, Pennsylvania