

Transcript: Thrift Poem by Robert Macfarlane

Read by Callaloo Carnival Arts

[Crashing wave sounds]

'Thrift' poem by Robert Macfarlane from 'The Lost Spells' book by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris.

Presented by Callaloo Carnival Arts at 'AEME 2021: Events Principles and Practices: a level playing field?'

Voices in order of appearance:

Jackie Hagan, Marina Poppa, Glen Greaves, Phedra Broch, Clare Ibberson-John, Clare Shaw

Images, film footage and editing by Jasmine Greaves.

[Jackie]

Thrift thrives where most life fails, falls, is cast adrift.

High on mountain ridges, sea-cliff ledges, island edges, Thrift resists, survives

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[Marina]

Flower of brinks and rifts, veteran of sheer
drops and near misses, queen of in extremis,
Planting pink-as-candy lipstick kisses on
Basalt columns, granite outcrops.

[Glen]

Raven lifts, tumbles; falcon shifts, soars,
Plummets; storm rumbles, wave sifts, moor
Burns, crag crumbles - so time turns and
Turns again, so time's song sings on and
on, and all the while humble Thrift just grafts along.

[Phedra]

In saltmarsh, dune, moraine -
where going's rough and margins fine
Thrift digs in, growing quietly on
Through drought and rain.

[Clare John]

Far above the rock-pools and the beaches,
Thrift clings on; a lighthouse keeper
For every weather, a seaside saint in
Her clifftop niches.

[Clare Shaw]

Thrift blooms on spoil-heap and tailing,
For Thrift knows hardship is a limit not
A failing; Thrift persists despite all odds,
And Thrift's gift is - Thrift's grace is -
To give a glimpse of hope in the tightest
Of spots, the toughest of places.