

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

Tom Sexton divides his time between Alaska and Maine, spending half of every year in Eastport. His poem describes the movement of a porcupine through the twists, turns, and surprises of a single sentence. Sexton writes, “I hope my short lines move as slowly as the porcupine does.”

### Porcupine

*By Tom Sexton*

Its movement on  
the ground is  
that of a bag  
of stones rolled  
downhill, a spilled  
quiver of black-  
tipped arrows, but  
now, on this  
cold March morning,  
it is raising the  
dark flag of itself  
to the top of  
an ancient tree  
like an explorer  
claiming the world  
in the name  
of all that is Porcupine.

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