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## Back Cover: A Circle Story

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# A Circle Story

It is like this:

We are sitting around the table  
telling a circle story and  
telling a circle story.

I can only say my sentence  
when I have listened to yours.

Together we weave a tale  
adding swatches of story to stitch together,  
assembled from patches of worn clothes  
(still bodywarm and smelling  
of your day's journey  
and mine).

This crazy quilt like a mess of beauty  
with some stitches tense and pulling,  
some lax and slack, barely  
holding together the fabric of  
our connection — the rags and  
silken strips, the nubbled  
wool tags and smooth satin squares.

Your loopy needlework  
close beside my precise stitchery.

My bright colours celebrated  
by your earthy tones.

And we two  
tug at our corners  
of this collage of textures, our  
stitches unable to pierce  
unless the quilt is  
taut between our laps.

— *Kate Marshall Flaherty, Lay Spiritan*

