

Alicia Ostriker

**from *ALMANAC***

**IN FEBRUARY**

I am like the trees  
not ruined exactly but shorn of ornament  
and destitute of motivation

it is possible to find  
both beauty and truth in their  
pure forms

and I would like to do so  
in myself if time could be persuaded  
to hold off its heartless green

deep cold let me get a grip  
on myself  
see what I mean