

## **Taking Inventory**

by Genevieve Chornenki

I walked one May morning  
in affable angled light  
along a pocket of pavement flanking a rail line  
rubber-sole spondees  
padding the path

*left, right, left, right*

*left, right, left, right*

I walked  
'til my treads were bested by violets  
pulsing through leaf litter  
grass grains splitting their seed coats  
chestnut trees nursing new leaves  
and the cadence of wakening bees.

Onward through underbrush

*left, right, left, right*

A wren's rattle now.

a wren's rattle and a robin's whinny  
a wren's rattle, a robin's whinny, and a downy woodpecker pummeling a bough.

The pierce of a red-tailed hawk

high,

up

up

high.

A squirrel crashing from a budding basswood, bewildered.

I walked one May morning along a pocket of pavement flanking a rail line, and I wondered,

*Where can I find chick peas?*

*Everybody's hoarding these days, and the grocery store shelves are bare.*