1997

Tropes

Ronald Wallace

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.4863
Ronald Wallace

Tropes

After several weeks in the Caribbean, when they arrive on the bus at the student union, 2 a.m., the icy wind off the lake hits them like ... an icy wind. It won’t sustain a metaphor—nothing in this cold North country is any more than what it is. The street, the sky, the lake, the stars reflecting off the lake like ... stars. The season comes up short, is in arrears.

But wait! A trope he hadn’t banked on comes shuffling out of the shadows for a hand-out—Can he spare some change?—and then it bums a cigarette, and that small glow of bright heat fires up a train of thought that takes him back into his life’s as ifs and likes.