

# Panoply, A Literary Zine

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### Driving Down the Mountain at Sunset – Laura L. Mays Hoopes

The hard work is done  
and so the edge of night approaches  
lines the south side of peaks with golden glow  
draws a red line where the sun just disappeared  
along the mountains' thrusts and plunges.

There is a peace between  
the blue on blue of peak beyond peak.  
No human lights to pull the eye from deepest violet.  
A white stone outcrop like a ship with sails  
spread wide to winds that whip the roadside weeds.  
The inner fires burn low. In the dim light,  
cars and trucks turn on their lights,  
making chains of gold and red  
that spiral around the valleys  
like necklaces and bracelets.

The sky inks over and loses its glow.  
My time is almost gone  
and now the mountains are just shoulders  
blocking a few stars, a no-color, no-light place  
where grass and sage waft perfumes to moths.



Laura L Mays Hoopes is Emerita Professor of Biology, Pomona College. In 2013, Hoopes received the MFA in Creative Writing from San Diego State University and a Certificate from UCLA In 2009. Hoopes has published the memoir, *Breaking Through the Spiral Ceiling*, and fiction, poetry, and non-fiction pieces in *Chaffin Journal*, *NorthCarolina Literary Review*, *Fat City Review* and others.