

## Wedding in the Appalachian Mountains

by [Jeanne Murray Walker](#) in the [July 2024](#) issue

Published on June 17, 2024

Clouds slosh over these rugged mountains  
and spill onto the hillside where our host  
has pitched a white tent from which  
we watch a herd of brindled  
cows below us, eating up the meadow.  
Then a magician struts in,

pulls a quarter from his ear,  
and hands it to the bride's oldest child,  
as we wait for the slow canter  
of bridesmaids down the aisle.  
Knowing it's the bride's third marriage  
(three shots fired at the target, bing,  
bing, bing), I think, *Oh Lord, how  
smart of her, to hire a magician.*

Meanwhile the cows on the hillside  
are turning crabgrass into cream  
without a wand. And I think, we don't get  
many chances in a world that's  
constantly unraveling  
and words like "I do" are such tiny  
hooks to darn it back together.