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The alpine valley of the Upper Engadine, stretches eight miles from the Maloja Pass, on the edge of the northeast Italian border, northeast, across three crystal-blue lakes – Sils, Silvaplana, and St Moritz – and terminates in the hotel-studded city of St Moritz, the mecca of the rich and famous. We weren't rich or famous, and we weren't going to St Moritz, but rather to its more modest sister town, Sils-Maria, the one-time home of the German iconoclast Friedrich Nietzsche. It was his place, perhaps his only place, in his words: 'my proper refuge and home.'

The car was quiet. Our six year-old daughter Becca had fallen asleep, and Carol and I were alone with the lake, the mountains, and a blessed moment of calm. I'd fallen in love with her in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, a hidden place where we'd escaped two marriages that really deserved to die. The road construction ended and we picked up pace as we rolled toward Silvaplana. After the switchbacks of the Julier Pass at 7495 feet, the stretch between Silvaplana and Sils-Maria was a welcome relief. It curves gently around the lake, which, as I remember it, was ruffled by the wind. But today, it was perfectly still, creating a perfect aquamarine table on which the mountains were firmly set. When the glaciers flowed through these valleys in ice ages, they excavated the land and over time, the water filled in the massive depressions that were created. How many rains, day after day, year after year, did it take to fill such a lake?

I caught sight of the wooded hills above Sils-Maria and, over the trees, the white turreted of the Hotel Waldhaus. It had been sixteen years since I'd last visited Sils-Maria, or for that matter, thought about Nietzsche, and I had an uncanny sense of homecoming.

'Oh, my,' Carol shivered and let out a muffled gasp, 'God.'

Nietzsche once lamented that, 'God is dead,' that we moderns had entered an age when belief in divine was next to impossible. On this day, God was alive and well in the Engadine: he snuck through clouds and emanated from the water and converged where the light met one's eyes. I couldn't see it from the car, but I knew what traced the edge of the road we were traveling: a walking path that I often frequented in my youth, the same one that carried Nietzsche to his *Zavathustra*. When he walked this trail, skirting the water, Nietzsche wrote that he frequently wept 'not sentimental tears, but tears of exultation.' When you read Nietzsche in a library or coffee shop, it is possible to misinterpret this as hyperbole or the

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Back Draft: Natasha Trethewey
By Ben Purkert and Natasha Trethewey / February 26, 2019

The acclaimed poet discusses a devastating fire, and the painterly in poetry.

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REVIEW

The Carnegie International Explores its Past With an Eye to the Future
By Roslyn Bernstein / February 7, 2019

The exhibition's 57th edition casts a wide net, and the result is bold and thoughtful.

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FICTION

Enacting Africa
Fiction by EC Osondu / December 26, 2018

"Jambo!" my client greeted me, over-cheerfully. "Jambo!" I hailed back, slightly accentuating the pitch of my voice to match his high-octane enthusiasm.

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Always On
By Kyle Paoletta / December 18, 2018
A. S. Hamrah's film criticism is a welcome corrective in an outmoded field.



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Carrie Mae Weems on a Century of American Violence
By Laura Feinstein / December 3, 2018
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