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# Three Poems

*by Peter Waldor*

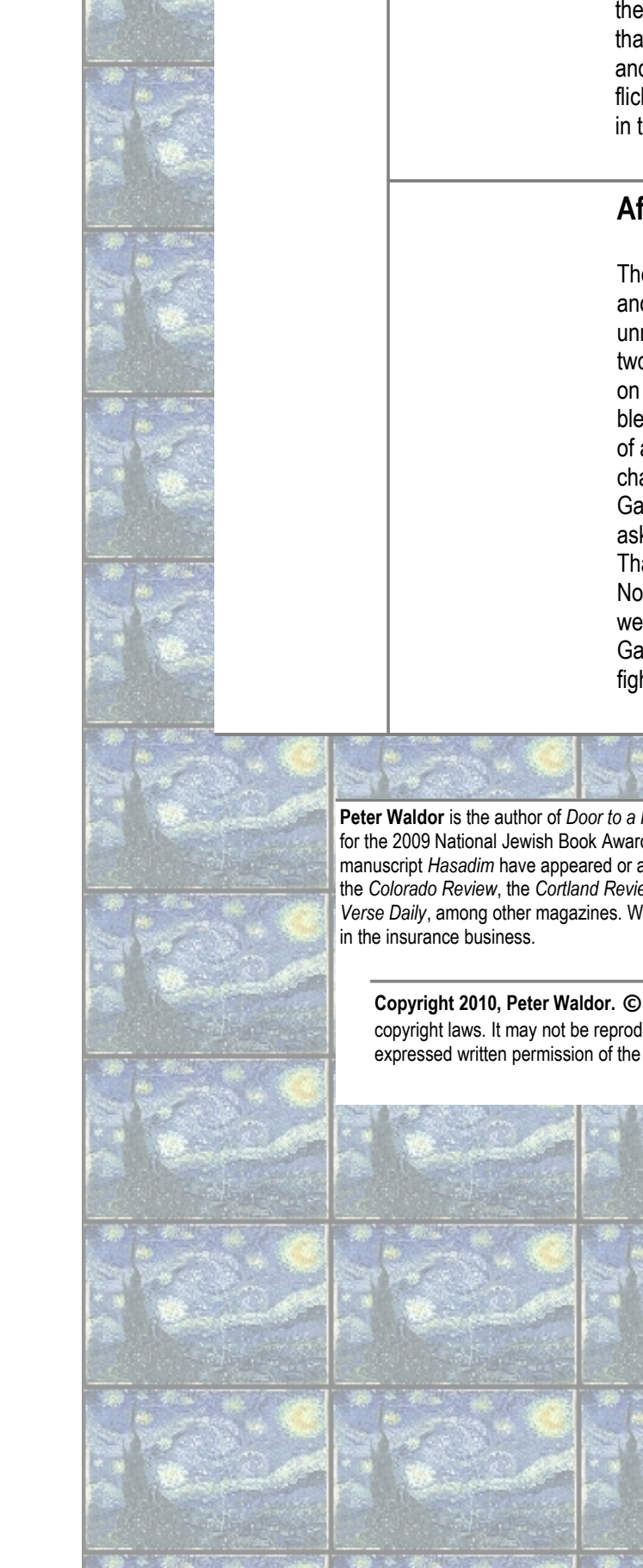
## Hawks' Wings

Though cool and soft  
the mushroom is volcanic--  
it erupts and pushes  
dirt into a mound,  
here hawks' wings,  
their Frankenstein  
heads shining.

Two boys stoop  
and cut as far down  
as they can leaving  
the severed stems.  
They handle the mushrooms  
more gently than boys  
handle things, trimming  
the worms which fall  
in the discarded flesh,  
enough to nourish  
them into damsel flies.  
The boys refuse to fold  
their knives, walking away  
under the ancient canopy  
with hawks' wings in one hand  
and blades in the other.

## Heart

At Trout Heaven  
we give a trout  
to a young man to gut,  
and after slicing head,  
tail and thumbing  
out the organs,  
he placed the heart  
on the counter  
for my children;  
a pea-size lump  
until he sprinkles  
water on it  
and it beats again,  
bouncing  
on the stainless steel,  
water squeezing  
through the valves.  
The young man



looks up to accept  
my children's laughter,  
but they look as if  
they see something  
that should not be seen  
and the young man  
flicks the heart  
in the trash.

## Afghanistan

The rubber band snaps  
and The New York Times  
unrolls like a rug,  
two baby-faced soldiers  
on the cover, helmets  
blending into the murk  
of a castle that  
changed hands many times.  
Gabriel (age two)  
asked Who that?  
That Jacob?(age ten).  
No, just two men  
wearing hats, I said.  
Gabriel smiled and said  
fighting, fighting!

**Peter Waldor** is the author of *Door to a Noisy Room* (Alice James Books, 2008), a finalist for the 2009 National Jewish Book Award. Poems from Waldor's latest (unpublished) manuscript *Hasadim* have appeared or are about to appear in *The American Poetry Review*, the *Colorado Review*, the *Cortland Review*, the *Iowa Review*, *Mothering Magazine* and *Verse Daily*, among other magazines. Waldor lives in northern New Jersey where he works in the insurance business.

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