

The title card features a black rectangular background with the text "Anthology of Appalachian Writers" centered in a white serif font. This central element is framed by two horizontal green bands with a soft, blurred gradient, one above and one below the black box.

Anthology of
Appalachian
Writers

An Unscheduled Day / Kari Gunter-Seymour

Let me be unruly, escape while I can,
sneak off grid to this outback,
wooded, feathered and bloomed, |

a lite sprinkle of rain
sponging the greenery,
speckling my cheeks.

Cricket songs stitch the morning,
Wildflowers boast purple
and ochre, their pollen

a salty dust up on the tongue
as I part a path.
Stickseeds hitchhike my sweater.

I spot a perfect rock beneath
a tuck of pin oak, a flat perch,
moss embossed to cradle my bones.

Sun squeaks a peek between clouds,
ruddy foliage swirls in points of light,
gold finch flit from stem to branch.

A doe stands lengthways in the ryegrass,
doesn't bother to camouflage,
as if she knows my scent.

Breezes whistle like wisps of memory
inside clusters of hemlock. I look
to the foothills, find comfort in their whispers,

wait for a fragrance to ripple the holler,
marvel as afternoon falls
like leaves into deeper color.
