

The Niagara River

As though
the river were
a floor, we position
our table and chairs
upon it, eat, and
have conversation.
As it moves along,
we notice—as
calmly as though
dining room paintings
were being replaced—
the changing scenes
along the shore. We
do know, we do
know this is the
Niagara River, but
it is hard to remember
what that means.

Kay Ryan

The Niagara River: Poems

Grove Atlantic © 2005

Kay Ryan was born in San Jose, California in 1945. She attended Antelope Valley College and spent many years as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Marin. (Ryan served as US Poet Laureate from 2008 to 2010 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 2011.) “The Niagara River” is from her 2005 collection of the same title. You can read the poem here: <https://niagarapoetry.ca/2020/05/13/ryan/>.