

**Wilderness House Literary Review 13/2**

*John Zedolik*  
**Companion Needs**

*The way she laughed at his jokes—*

so long, so heartily—devouring miles  
of turnpike tedium—

while he steered east into dawn,

surely must have shown her love for him,

the vehemence of her laughter  
due to his espoused state

—that she could never break—

through three hundred miles  
of giggles and smiles to ache,

splintering the air  
without caffeine stream

keeping those in the back half-awake—  
over ridge and river—with her desire  
that could not hope or sleep.