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What I can't bear is the day-in-day-out  
facing pair after pair of clueless eyes. The farther I live  
the clearer I know, when it comes to me  
real learning does not begin at school

*from the book MY MOUNTAIN COUNTRY / World Poetry Books*

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*Working on Ye Lijun's poems is an intimate experience that refreshes my relationship with solitude, while practicing distance with social constructs. Here, Ye recalls her years in a small mountain town, not with nostalgia or regret, but with a lesson learned, "The farther I live / the clearer I know . . . / real learning does not begin at school." Moving on buries not past errors: it humbles one before the unknown.*

**Fiona Sze-Lorrain on "Memories of a Small Town"**