In Blackwater Woods

Alan Stringer

Mary Oliver

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In Blackwater Woods

Look, the trees are turning their own bodies into
... pillars of light, ... are giving off the rich fragrance of...
cinnamon and fulfillment,

the long tapers of
cat-tails are bursting and floating away over the

blue shoulders of the ponds,
And melody.

ev - ery pond, no mat - ter what its
name is, name is, is name - less

name is - - - - - is name - less

dotted quarter = half note

now.

now.

Ev - ery year ev - ery - thing I have ev - er
leads back to

learned in my life - time

this: the fires and the black
river of loss whose other...
side is salvation, whose
meaning none of us will ever
know.
To live in this world you must be able to do three things:
love what is mortal; to hold it against your bones knowing your life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,