

Expedition

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About the Work:

A poem offering a preparation guide for the challenges of project management reality.

About the Author:

After receiving a degree in computer science at Brown University and holding positions in software development in the Boston area, Susan Cohen moved to Sweden in 1988. She has recently shifted from a thirty-year telecommunications engineering career to a new fulfilling path in writing and editing. Susan has published two books of poetry, *When Expression Strikes Now* and *Messenger*. Her third book, *Life Spring*, will be coming out in 2021.

Expedition

I'm leaving the GPS at home.
It has no office map anyway.

I'll need to use my old school navigation tools;
internal compass, guts, and brain cells.

Check equipment.

Oxygen tank for breathing at the managers' cloud free level.

Poison hotline on speed dial in case of snake bites at the daily morning meeting.

Rifle to stop organizational elephants in the conference room corner. They can get that hungry gleam in their eye, lusting for colleague mignon and crème delay.

Absurd plan detector senses soul crushing deadlines deep within oceans of hysteria.

Food and first aid It may be many hours of overtime before I see that Welcome Home! doormat again.

Meditation mat When all else fails, use Plan B--call on higher powers.

Ready.

Time to leave the wide-open office landscape,
wade into the steamy unknown beyond the Kanban board
and meet project reality eye-to-eye.