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The Pond

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The Pond

I part thick alder canes, thistle clusters,
brambles of yellow pepperweed until I stand
at water's edge where the surface
 lies still as morning dew. What appears
as slivers of dawn from the narrow trail
becomes a blanket of haze over broken branches,

elm and willow. Water partially hides an abandoned
water wheel. Floating mosquito ferns and bushy
 pondweed undulate in a mist world.
Phragmites and purple loosestrife reflect
 from the opposite bank.

The sun slowly spreads day over the surface,
a seam sewn between opposites, dark underworld,
light separations. On the far side, cordelia calls
 of a hermit thrush,
unexpected voices of a gray catbird mimic
rock wrens, winged teal. Fronds of sword ferns
 waver in morning's warmth.
A bog turtle suns on a broken snag. A bell frog
slips like vague speech under the pond's rippled surface.

Suddenly, from seclusion the white plume feathers
of an egret rise, in moments disappear,
 leaving a clear blue river to flood the sky.

Kay Mullen

KAY MULLEN'S work has appeared in various poetry journals: *Floating Bridge Review*, *American Life in Poetry*, *Cross Winds Poetry Review*, and others. She earned an MFA from Pacific Lutheran University and has been a multiple Pushcart nominee and Best of the Net nominee. She currently lives and teaches in Tacoma, Washington.