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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*

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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.