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Among Inlet Waters

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Along Inlet Waters

Sea scorpions, leggy weeds,
and black lichen
inhabit a length of stony clefts
here on the inlet.
Clusters of sanderlings feed
on the ivory shore.
When the tide advances, waves
lap over periwinkle shells.
Whelk inhale the color of the sky.
It takes a mallard's feather
or the scent of salt marsh
to unlatch a sea of unknowns.

Prints in sand tell one story.
The moon withdraws the tide
where kelp rocks
as if asleep forever.

In centuries to come,
the stones and dark habitations
will wear away.
For now, above the stones,
the pennywort and rock weed.
Shadows sweep across the mirrored
surface. Remnants of rain tick
the stones a lucid silver. Blades
of beach grass shine
with a luminous green.

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.