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Refraction

Cammy Thomas

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Refraction

I go to Walden Pond to convert my solitude. It's dinnertime, sun low to the water, trees in alpenglow. Believing there are no sharks, I let my legs dangle. On my back, slightly submerged, I watch the sun through a few inches of clear water, as it wobbles and spreads its warm diffused rays—spears of light, flexing saddles of it. Each bubble reflects the light, vibrating above my face. I'm floating in the refractions of the sky.

Nothing comes to me. No giant creature opens its jaws on my back. I'm in the water, every cell cooling, my mind on fire with beauty. It's not a musical—no children show up to sing about how happy we are, and the wise old people don't dance on shore to welcome me home. But cradled by the water I feel the beast retreat. Yes, I am alone, and no, that show of light and color is not for me—it merely exists in implacable nature. Right now I can float in it.

Cammy Thomas

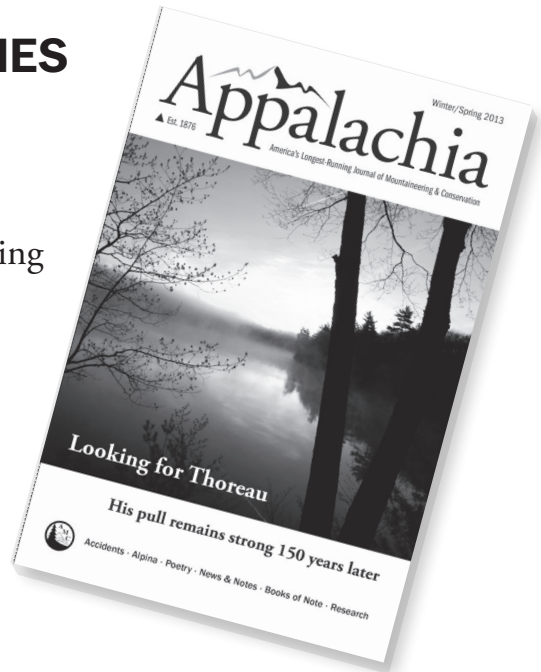
CAMMY THOMAS's first book, *Cathedral of Wish* (Four Way Books, 2005), won the 2006 Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. Her second book, *Our Dark Game*, is forthcoming from Four Way. Her poems have appeared in the journals *Agenda*, *Eclipse*, *The Healing Muse*, *Ibbetson Street Press*, *Runes*, and *Sahara*, among others.

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