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## For What They Are

Kay Mullen

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## For What They Are

Evening arrives. Driftwood, sand dollars,  
polished stones stipple the shore we walk.

Memory pools possessions; cowry sensing  
the way it sees the world, the glossy

shell a protection, implicit will to survive.  
Trails ripple across the sand: clam,

periwinkle, fluted limpets. The ocean gathers  
gifts, decor or detritus: sea lettuce, kelp,

eelgrass, feathers—everything lustrous  
with sunset fire—hollows in beach rocks,

edges of thunderous crests flush  
with evening's last flare. We linger for the sun

to drift below the sea, for the ascendant  
dusk slowly to yield its polished moon.

*Kay Mullen*

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KAY MULLEN'S poems have recently appeared in *Shark Reef*, *Raven Chronicles*, *San Pedro Poetry Review*, and *Windfall: A Journal of Poetry of Place*. Several of her poems have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize as well as for Best of the Net Anthology 2009. She teaches creative writing at Catherine Place, a center for women, and lives in Tacoma, Washington.

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