

GLENNA HOLLOWAY
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SWAMP STANDARD TIME

Two rival egrets
in long courting plumage
drink their last reflections.

Sun drops suddenly.
After is not for humans.
A night heron shrieks.

Wind wrinkles water
around cottonmouth coils
and bald cypress knees.

Mist and moon mingle.
Wings and pawpads ply shadows.
Rats and rabbits hide.

Now is the hunter's.
Only hunger rules the dark.
Law is ancient here.

I return to my world reluctantly
where light disguises evil
and law is less sure.

--Glenna Holloway