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Small Hours

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Somebody told me
frogs and crickets really can't sing.
Bassy bulls and creeky altos
that ease the wilderness into quiet dusk
are nothing more than mating groans
echoing on in sleepless nights.
The marsh melodies and harmonies
hum the muddy tune from dusk to dawn.
Chests swell with pride as they flaunt midnight catches.
Those left empty-hearted
return lonely with the sunrise
to drown themselves in muddy morning Tequilla.

Sue Hyde

Small Hours

On early iced-over autumn mornings I'll nestle among withering golden rod and russet leaves to watch the wet marsh fog ceiling lift high above grey water and slender cat-tail stalks. The guilded October sun sparks a glint in sullen deep black eyes of an amber buck as he dips his quivering nose into an ever-widening circle of biting, crystalline clear water.

Chris Weller