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Ken Waldman

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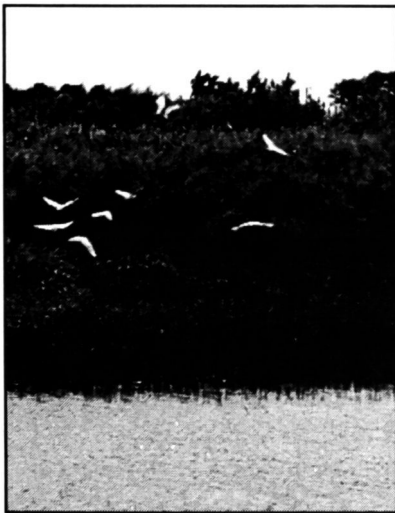
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# Found on Kodiak

by Ken Waldman

Atop a Middle Bay ridge,  
violet twilight, west peaks  
no longer shiny—time  
I decided. Some options: North  
to shore, a haven of sand  
and rock by bay; further north  
to town, lights, a ferry  
due tomorrow; west  
to campsite that promises  
fire, food, a tentative partner-  
ship with birds; further west  
to mountains, now haloed  
by wisps. Tired, hungry,  
I knew I no longer knew—  
and would never know—where  
I stood. I only knew this:  
surrender. What relief  
to know deliverance neared  
no matter what direction  
next. I unzipped my pack,  
found the water, drank  
the last. Recapping  
the bottle, I watched  
clouds crown darkening peaks  
far west. I began hiking  
that way, happy, alive  
having chosen for the night.  
Sometime soon I'll reach camp.  
When flames catch I'll sing.



*Photo by Alanna Bradley*

