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How to Walk on a Lake Path at Night

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Lantz: How to Walk on a Lake Path at Night

HOW TO WALK ON A LAKE PATH AT NIGHT

Nick Lantz

You look down. The ground, writhing.
Little toads, or frogs (who can tell?).
None bigger than your thumbnail.
But hundreds, multitudes, moving.
You stand there, afraid of what another
step might do. Try not to think
of the steps that brought you here
through the runny moonlight, what
you may have already destroyed.
It's a numbers game, life, and you
are just the instrument of chance,
this time aligned with tragedy. Maybe
tomorrow a gull will carry the discarded
ends of your sandwich to its nest.
Maybe even now the mosquitoes
coalescing around you like an aura
of hunger will feed the chirping bats.
There is your house, folded in the woods
like a splinter the flesh has grown
over but remembers with the slightest
pressure. There is the path that leads
to it. A window, gaping, golden.
And in the darkness where your hands
and feet are invisible, there is her
voice, and yours, speaking together.