

John Abbott

Asylum Lake

Freed from our passions
we are weightless
and weighted
incapable of drowning yet
unable to swim for the
sudden wash of calm
only the view
of blue sky seen
from underwater can provide

Our perception is blurred
not just by the lake
but by the memory of those
who have died in these
waters which are now
choked by cattails
lily pads and cedar leaves
leaving the color permanently altered
the clarity too.

It would be easy
to say that this
more accurately reflects
the reality of our condition
but as my tightening lungs force
me to the surface
the simultaneous rush
of water and sunlight
is both radiant and fluid and
I can see everything
worth seeing

John Abbott is a writer, musician, and English instructor who lives with his wife and daughter in Kalamazoo, MI. His work has appeared in many literary journals, both in print and on the web. His first chapbook is *There Should Be Signs Here* (Wormwood Chapbooks, 2013). For more information about his writing, please visit johnabbottauthor.com.