



The SWAMP MONSTER *at Home*

New Poetry by Catherine Carter
LSU Press

The Dawn of Time

It had always been twilight
and it would always be twilight, God's
hour or the dinosaurs' or, more
likely, just the sweet unending
amoeba's, as each split itself
off from the original and eternal
cell: one myriad amoeba
on the rocking sea-face
and the faint glint of stars
never setting, circling
the pole like a bear's hip,
a water wheel. Then,
change. Then
some primordial ape-animal
standing out on the sandy
cape of forever looked over
her shoulder and said,
in her clumsy grunt,
"yesterday . . ."
She didn't know what she had
started. Probably she only
meant to say, "yesterday
was like today," but it was enough.
The sea began to heave.
The endless twilight began
to end, peeling westward
like stripped skin. The stars
covered their eyes as the new
thing dragged up
its bloody, fiery crown
out of the deep. Gears clashed
in the brightening air, deadlines
for reports began to pour
in, atoms everywhere synchronized
their watches for millennia
of slow, precise decay,
as out at the rim of every
thing, never to set
or stop again, time dawned
into the ticking day.

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Praise for *The Swamp Monster at Home*

In Catherine Carter's *The Swamp Monster at Home*, classical sirens sing from a Chesapeake Bay island; Adam and his lover, Steve, share beers in Eden; and a Norse goddess strides into an emergency room, "glowing like grain." With quirky imagination and wry humor, Carter exposes the connections between human and nonhuman, blood and home.

Building from *The Memory of Gills*, Carter's debut collection and winner of the Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry, these vivid and tender poems consider the immanent and sometimes animistic natural world. "The Swamp Monster at Home," however, takes new risks, offering a deeper vulnerability and greater maturity; this new collection acknowledges the loves within and outside of marriage and confesses to both the grief and relief of miscarriage.

Varied in form, *The Swamp Monster at Home* offers accessible and rewarding, elegiac yet hopeful poems – an exciting new collection from a remarkable writer.