

## DEEP DARK SUBMERSION

It is dark getting darker. . .

Either we are descending, willfully sinking with every exhale, or the tide is rising fast. Or both. The submersion is total—immersive—hole-filling. Seems like hot water and yet odds are we'll freeze by the end. The dimming is not unlike falling sleep, especially since we know (from Gloria) that dreaming is a form of planning. Atmospheric weight builds pressure and density; we learn when to apply our depressurization training.

The eyes need adjusting, vision needs recalibration. Proprioception turns up. Such automatic and laborious efforts help some. As does an occasional shaft of light. The silhouette of shipwreck comes into view like future ruins, habitats flocked in algae. What can be seen beyond light, where no electrons visibly excited by the sun penetrate? The point here is the nonvisible, the invisible, and the extravisible. Look out for organic transparencies, electric red-herring shadows, and optical fake-outs. Try to track the hyper and the sub perceptual. Now we're crossing into other named and unnamed senses.

Find the whole time, thinking about internal vision(s) and strange landscapes or plasmic debris hovering on the inside of this eyelid. Plant and animal get confused at great depths. I'd call it otherworldly if it weren't so specifically of this world and inside our bodies. No light turns into black light and much opens up as a result, like the possibility of a body making light, inventing light, discovering light, and radiating light. Harsh and drastic conditions create inventive evolutionary solutions. Blackness births (bio)luminescence. Turns out there's so much life where we are unaware, misfits in uncharted waters. The beyond that is of and past awareness: inspiring, if scary, shit. Dark like the womb, a fluid sac. Such closed-eye floating looks like slippery floaters that swim invisibly across the globe of an eyeball. Which is not to discount the fact that such closed-eye floating is also good practice for death. Maybe new life and non life are the same. Enter: an embryonic space.

Deep Dark Submersion includes work by Lena Daly, Zach Harris, Sofia Londono, and Nevine Mahmoud.