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Tide of the Darkest Night

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Tide of the Darkest Night

Tide of the darkest night
fills the Penobscot river channel—
a cleansing tide
a bringing tide.

Icy salt water and stiff wind
move out drift trees—pine, oak
and indeterminate after an uprooted year
floating, rubbing rocks, catching the shore.

Old river-driven logs,
pieces of winter-ravaged docks,
pieces of lost toys and tires
drift in with the new year.

River bank clay washes away monthly
adds to gooey mud flats
takes out steeply leaning trees
rearranges bricks and boulders.

