

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In her recent collection *Bog Orchids*, Susan Deborah King explores the people and places of her beloved Great Cranberry Island. Today's poem from that collection shows us island life during an early morning in August.

### Up with Fishermen and Birds

*by Susan Deborah King*

As first light copies from the sky its pink  
onto the water, and lobster boats  
motor out to drop or pull their traps; as they  
swish deftly the long train of their wakes  
around buoys bobbing proud, heraldic colors  
over the sea's wave-smoothened field;  
as captains in orange waders stand at the helms,  
or lower traps over the gunwales,  
their engines rasping like morning  
trying to clear its throat; as deer bow  
in an attitude of worship, into the mist  
hovering just above the meadow,  
their backs caught tawny in the rising light;  
as bees make their gold-gathering rounds  
of poppies, balm and mallow; as crows  
harangue each other; as the hummingbird whirrs  
to probe the fuchsia for its breakfast juice;  
as the phoebe keeps putting its name  
before the world, and the morning glory  
composes itself in the shadows waiting  
for a spotlight before it blows its horn zenith blue –  
in this hour, the poet too is at work, alert  
in her cerulean chair on the porch.  
Binoculars handy, books stacked around her,  
she bears witness to the beginning, embellishing  
the fresh, clean pages of the day with words of praise  
that we have once again come whole, come new  
out of the dark, out of the dark.

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