

## GRANT CLAUSER

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### Darwinian

It took millennia for cave fish  
to finally lose their eyes,  
like light bulbs failing  
in an empty room.

Here, as the woods grow dim  
my eyes adjust to see through dark,  
hands turned callused  
from swinging my father's axe.

This is how we meet the world,  
bend our lives around the things  
we hold close, dress in layers  
when the wind is cold.

At some point we all need  
to evolve like animals, crawl  
from water into air and leave  
another skin behind,

but skins have their own  
lives, vestiges of love  
and scars we try to hide, eyes  
still bright behind our cloudy lids,

and when you bring the cave fish  
into light, it only takes a generation  
for old habits to return,  
startled pupils moving under skin.



## ABOUT GRANT CLAUSER

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Grant Clauser is the author of *Necessary Myths* (Broadkill River Press 2013) and *The Trouble with Rivers* (FootHills Publishing 2012). His poems have been published in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Cortland Review*, *Mason's Road*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, and *One*. He received an MFA from Bowling Green State University and writes about technology for a living. He also teaches workshops for Musehouse, a literary center in the Philadelphia area. He lives in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, and blogs at *UnIambic* ([uniambic.com](http://uniambic.com)).

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