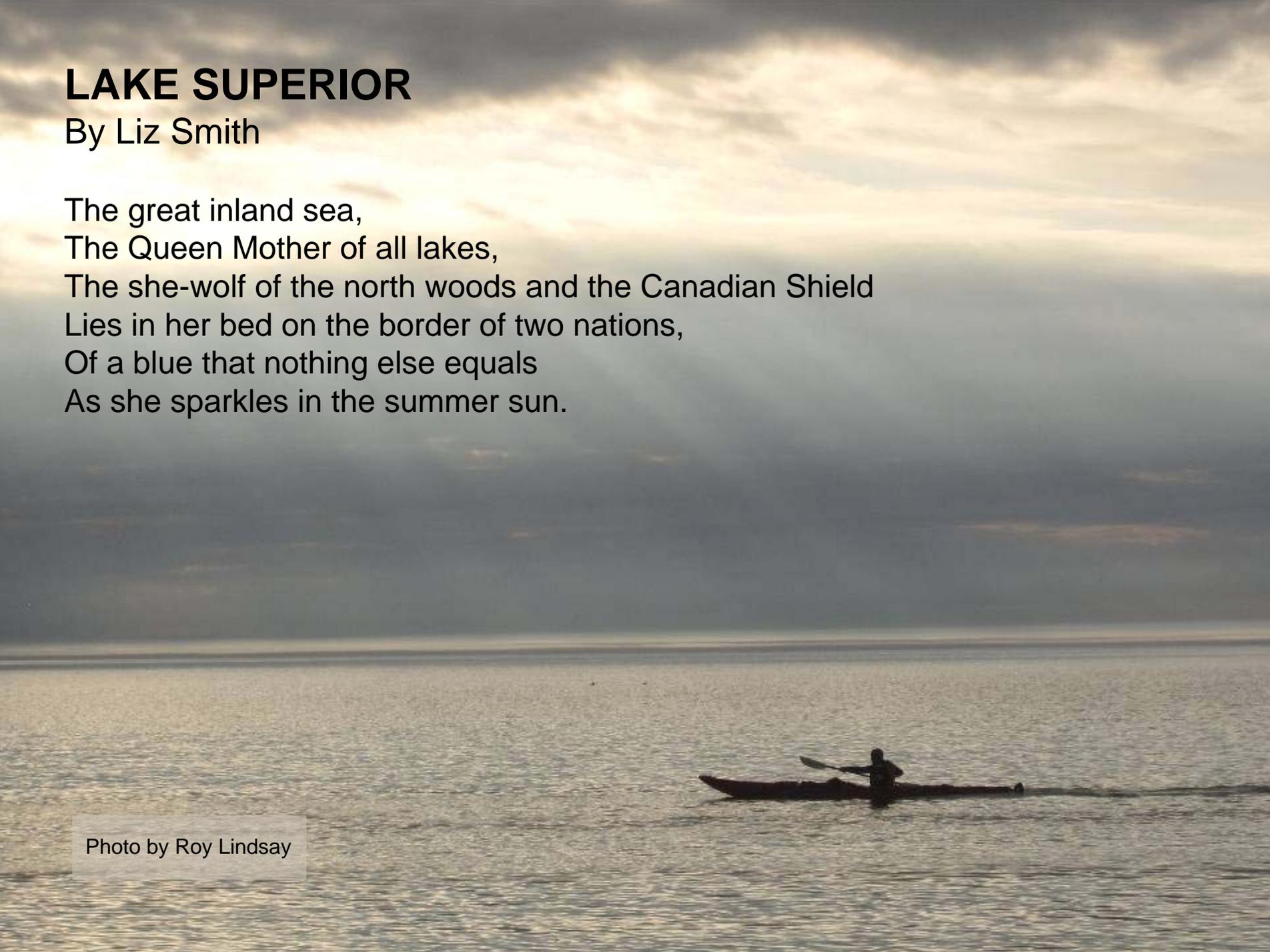


LAKE SUPERIOR

By Liz Smith

The great inland sea,
The Queen Mother of all lakes,
The she-wolf of the north woods and the Canadian Shield
Lies in her bed on the border of two nations,
Of a blue that nothing else equals
As she sparkles in the summer sun.

Photo by Roy Lindsay

A wide-angle photograph of Lake Superior at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, which is partially obscured by clouds. The water is calm and reflects the light. In the lower right foreground, a person is seen in silhouette, sitting in a kayak and holding a paddle. The horizon line is low, emphasizing the vastness of the lake and sky.

Her moods are many, and changeable in an hour.
She holds in her lap the lives of those who invade her clear waters.
She wreaks havoc on her rocky shores and curving beaches;
She lays still and glassy on warm summer nights
While underneath, her great swells of power and might remain.
She creates her own micro-climate.

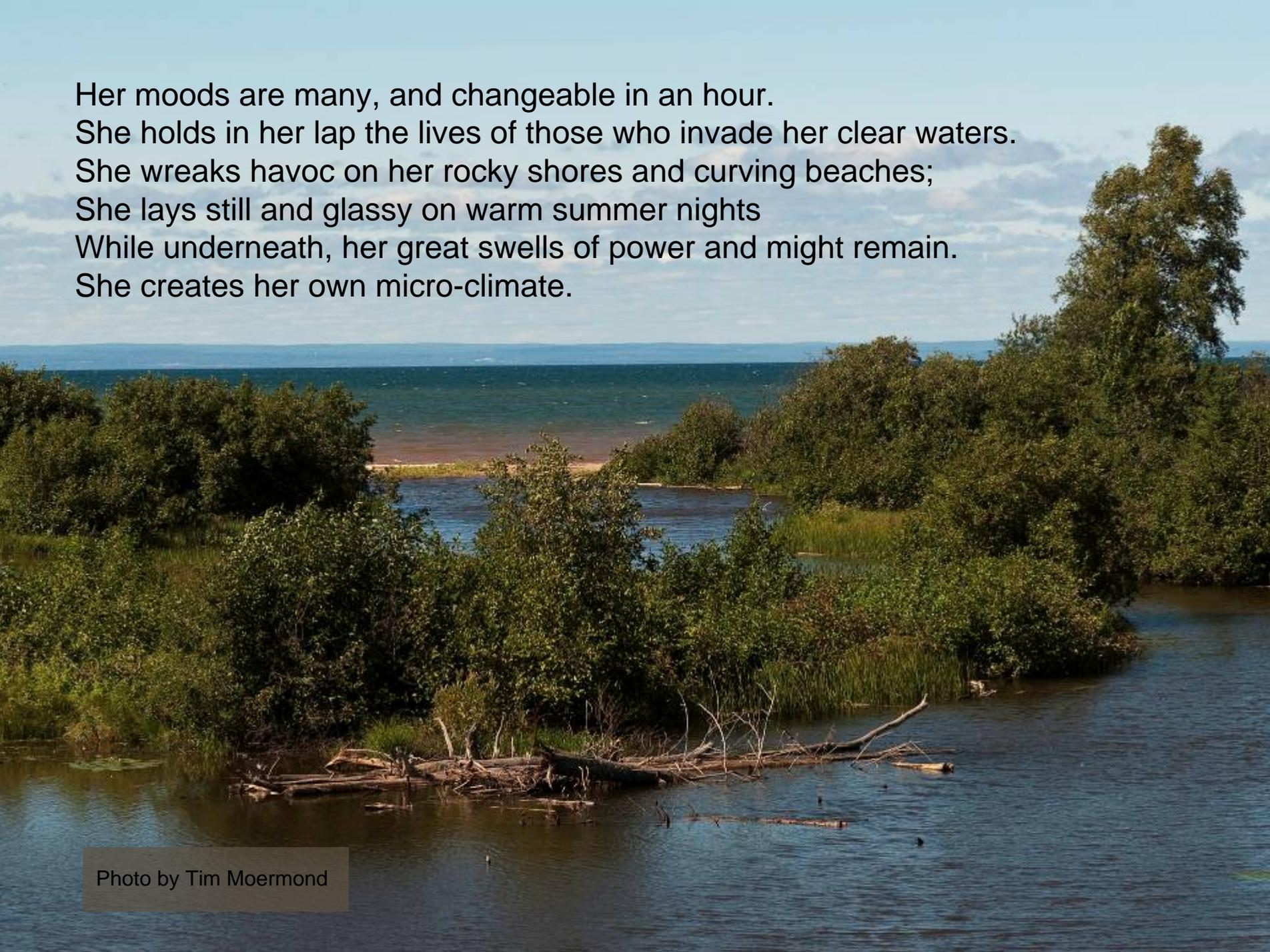


Photo by Tim Moermond

Lake Superior exerts another power, less visible,
But just as strong,
A power that affects one's mind and senses,
That keeps one returning for more and more of her,
Luring the adventurous kayaker, the sport fisherman,
The small boater, and the sea cave seekers to push their luck.
There is an exhilaration in knowing the dangers and risks,
And tempting one's fate anyway, as the rewards are great.
But one only has to have experienced a mishap or unexpected adventure
To be reminded of the respect the lake demands
From all who work and play in her waters.

Photo by Jessica Zalewski

This great inland sea whispers to me with her soft soothing waves on the beach,
And roars to me with her twenty foot smashing breakers;
She screams as the frigid winds send walls of snow across her surface,
She shuts me out with her fog,
And refreshes my tired mind and troubled soul with her eternal presence.
She is timeless and will remain long after I am gone.
How fortunate I am to have been given a glimpse into her intimacies.



Photo by Scott Anderson