Aqueous Tampa

Each day around three in the afternoon
the sky opens like a split plastic bag,
erasing compliment and complaint.

Gray-black clouds pull up like an
undertaker in a bad suit – one who
lays down the catalog of coffins,

then ineptly exits – the family left alone.
Water washes all sins, baptismal
submersion and pharaoh's mummification.

Wants and needs evaporate then redeposit
as morning dew — water winnows need
from want.

But a sky sans moisture, what is that?
Nothing more than high desert,
unpainted by effort or good luck,
void of even cacti.

Gary Grossman

Gary Grossman is Professor Emeritus of Animal Ecology at University of Georgia, and an author of 150+ scientific articles, cited almost 11,000 times. His poems and essays appear in more than 80 literary reviews. Gary doesn't enter contests, and although his writing has been nominated for awards - no wins yet, so meh. For a decade Gary wrote “Ask Dr. Trout”, a column for the national fly fishing magazine American Angler. His poetry books *Lyrical Years* (2023, Kelsay), *What I Meant to Say Was…* (2023, Impspired) and *Objects in Mirror May Be Closer Than They Appear* (2025, Arroyo Seco), and graphic memoir *My Life in Fish—One Scientist’s Journey…*(2023, Impspired) are available from the author or Amazon.
Website: https://www.garygrossman.net/

Cobalt Poets Series # 729 ~ October 20, 2026 ~ First published in Chiron Review (Fall 2026)