

**Winter** by patrick dennis riley 2022

inexplicable threads of elusive thought  
silently stream torn shreds of autumn's  
shadows into translucent shapes, twisted  
at times by bizarre slices of brilliant blue  
sardonic structures hidden within complex  
organized droplets that sporadically shift  
from haze to ice cold crystallized winter.

weak angry windjammer sir francis drake  
canvasbacks subvocalize agonizing pleas  
for sustenance, blindly navigating through  
rivers of blizzards seeking leeward shelter,  
previously diving for wild celery, under-  
water grass roots, snails and insects at the  
sad trickle which once was chesapeake.

ancient twin steel spans hidden within bergs,  
snow, and debris west and east, with only the  
highest suspensions vaguely visible slumping  
awkwardly southward, one a reflection of the  
other, continue to connect rural eastern shore  
isolation with urban western shore desolation  
during recent, imminent end of life glaciation.