Alligators I Have Known

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Reptilian teeth against my throat,
the sound of doldrums, the smell of ghosts,
a taste for flesh marinated with hope,
these are the creatures that I have known.

Clawing caresses that cut to the bone,
the grunting heat, the ungentle grope,
To be eaten alive or to go on alone?
I climbed in your belly and made it my home.