



## Ginkgo Prize for Ecopoetry @ginkgo prize · Nov 17, 2019

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Congratulations to **Ned Balbo** for making the 2019 #Ginkgo prize highly commended list, with his deeply earnest and poignant #ecopoem, K-T. Winners will be announced on the 21st of November at our prize ceremony @swedenborghouse

K-T

*The impact at the end of the Cretaceous Period,  
the so-called K-T boundary, exterminated  
75 percent of life on Earth.*

—Robert Sanders, 'Fossils Document the Hour After  
the Meteor Hit' (*Portside*, March 29, 2019).

Strange rain of molten glass,  
asteroid rock blown up, sky-high –  
Primordial fish hurled by the sea-quake  
onto sand once breathed, through gills,  
the shining drops that rained down, burning,  
even after they lay still.

✽

Shocked quartz & shattered shark teeth;  
proto-mammals petrified;  
foot-long feathers; fallen tektites  
in the filaments of gills;  
a terrible lizard's three-horned carcass –  
proof of impact, ecocide.

✽

Stellar traveler pulverized  
to rock-dust & indium,  
you made oceans rise & sway,  
called acid rain & darkness down,  
sprayed rubble, ash & blast debris  
into the firestorm of the sky.

✽

Who'll recognize the turning of  
one era to the next? Not  
the living things wiped out in  
mass extinctions of the past,  
nor we who, sifting relics,  
monitor apocalypse.

✽

In the gleaming core of amber,  
hangs an insect caught in flight –  
In the post-Cretaceous layer,  
ferns, resurgent, fought & thrived.  
Bones like pages in a journal,  
fossilized, give up their light.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: NED BALBO



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