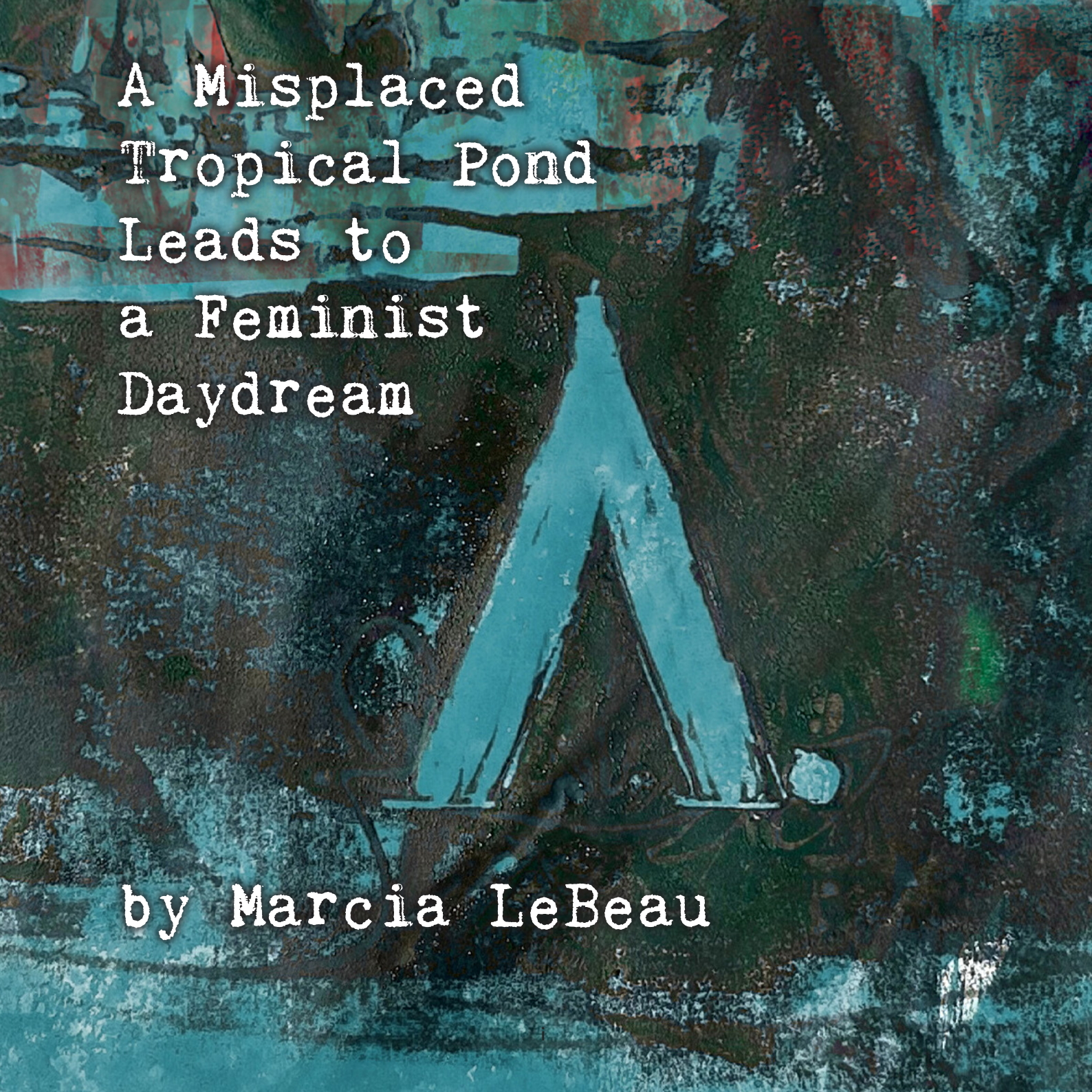
A Misplaced Tropical Pond Leads to a Feminist Daydream
by Marcia LeBeau

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There's a body of water in New Jersey
that looks like a tropical sea. A German
immigrant named Johann Vass
bought the land

with White Lake on it 260 years ago.
Johann had four wives because three
of them died during childbirth.
I don't know much about the Mrs. Vasses,

but I gather from the moment
they married Mr. Vass, they tended
and bred most everything in that home
until the day they bled out for life. I'm curious

if they wondered what it was all for
as they dizzily watched the patch of raspberry preserve
slowly stain the white sheet beneath them.
The one they had laundered only last week.

Author

Marcia LeBeau is the author of A CURIOUS HUNGER (Broadstone Books, 2024). Her poems, essays, and reviews have appeared in *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *New Ohio Review*, *Rattle*, and elsewhere. She was a third-place co-winner of the 2023 Allen Ginsberg Award and received an honorable mention for the Rattle Poetry Prize. Her work has also received several Pushcart Prize nominations. She has an MFA in poetry from VCFA and is the founder of The Write Space, a co-working and literary hub for creative writers in The Valley Arts District of Orange, New Jersey.