

Eaten by beauty

by [Michael Waters](#) in the [April 21, 2021](#) issue

*Dominican Republic*

The yellow-crowned night heron  
Plucks the land crab  
Inching from its burrow,

Cracks its red shell  
To pick with whetted beak  
The shredded innards.

The heron's plumed skull  
Shaded gray and black  
Seems rendered by Caravaggio.

How holy to be eaten by beauty,  
Or to scuttle  
Under a thistle to pinch

The green and blue  
Iridescent beetle  
And allow beauty to inhabit you.