

## Charleston, South Carolina

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*Louise Gwathmey Weld*

### **Charleston, South Carolina**

There is no solid mercy on this cribble  
of worn sponge. On Meeting Street, a sinkhole  
has swallowed half a car. At St. Philip's  
graveyard, shades mount the ripe stone.  
Blowfish and cuttlebone, cockaded  
woodpeckers drum hearts of pine.  
Groundswell and blister, hope is full  
of potholes. No one is late to church.  
The tide surges. When I stand in the wash  
I am not who I think I am. Ships  
float in the harbour, leering at the skirts  
of the city. The Wambah Swamp  
laps the backs of her legs.