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Human vulnerability and the experience of being prey

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Plumwood, Val¹

Abstract: In the early wet season, Kakadu's paperbark wetlands are especially stunning, as the waterlilies weave white, pink and blue patterns of dreamlike beauty over the shining towers of thundercloud reflected in their still waters. Yesterday, the waterlilies and the wonderful birdlife had enticed me into a joyous afternoon's idyll,

as I ventured onto the East Alligator lagoon for the first time, in a canoe lent by the park service. "You can play about on the backwaters," the ranger had said, "but don't go onto the main river channel. The current's too swift, and if you get into trouble, there are the crocodiles! Lots of them along the river!" I had followed his advice carefully, and glutted myself on the magical beauty and birdlife of the lily lagoons, untroubled by their crocodiles.



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