

# The Catch

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## Gut Knife

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## Gut Knife

the blade awoke  
to draw rubies from silver,  
glanced through the carnage  
at wide eyes.

thin of smile,  
deep in concentration,  
it conducted with a baton's grace,

pushed the tempo  
of the skinning shed  
as forearms chopped  
like clipped cello bows.

it

orchestrated foreheads,  
the wet of armpits,  
and the squamous stench  
of the catch.

bloody fingers  
strummed gills that once coursed the ocean,  
hungry as darts.

when the breath of women  
hung dank in dim air  
to resemble cones  
laced with moon dust,

the timpani of buckets stilled,  
and the master  
fell wiped into its scabbard  
and slept.