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## Wedding Anniversary with Fish

Dennis M. Dorney

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## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WITH FISH

On the dais, above tuxedos and orchids  
clutching shoulders, sounds grow thin.  
They escort you from a heavy curtain,  
nightgown still warm, sleep peeking  
from your mouth like mice.  
You have no plan, no notion of direction,  
there's only the microphone and light  
extracting into pureness of light.

Stories they expect begin in bed,  
cats on a satin coverlet, a husband  
motionless as grease on garage cement.  
He looks out from a print on the dresser  
holding a string of silver trout.  
Can you explain the freezing of that lake,  
the view from under the boat, how your lips  
shredded against his constant reeling—  
how he buried them after the photograph?

You want more sleep, light and its bunting  
hurts your eyes. This crowd wants to know  
more than you understand. Even as you squeeze  
the pistolgrip into five barks of marriage,  
his hand still tightens on your breast  
like an iron flower closing.  
If there was mud you would dig a hole for him,  
would brick these windows and vents  
until oxygen turned precious as dark water,  
bodies bloating to the surface, in love.