

2009

What Survives a Hurricane is an Heirloom

Jack Stewart

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stewart, Jack. "What Survives a Hurricane is an Heirloom." *The Iowa Review* 39.1 (2009): 64-64. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6640>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

What Survives a Hurricane is an Heirloom

ABC pans the shoreline,
stopping at the sand dollar
of a garbage can lid, the fish bones
of an antenna, the sand-smear'd face
of a saint from the Episcopal church.

Our friends lost their house,
nothing salvaged but an upstairs couch
they can re-cover, some pots and pans,
and, oddly, two bottles of wine
they found floating in the hall.

Ten days after burying themselves in the mud,
the shrimp emerge, a large haul condensed
by the weight of wind. The boats pull
up a mailbox, a freezer door, tow
a satellite dish back to the docks.

All over town things are bobbing
to the surface. Insurance teams
estimate the loss of what they find.
The beach is a mile further inland.
Like buoys, construction barrels mark off lanes.

And yet, in motels to the north,
owners wait hoping for a call
that something has turned up.
Backhoes sift the rubble.
Just shy of the horizon,
the shrimp boats tug at the waves.