

came to the end of my pole ...
 When I grabbed it by the gill slits, it began to talk ...
 I took it to my grandmother ... We
 listened to the fish ...

Dream Poem # 12

Missoula, Montana ...
 I could smell the fires in the mills --
 It was on the air strong as spoiled meat ...
 Winter was in my feet and hands and I kicked
 down through hills of snowbanks, snowbanks ...
 I was lightly dressed, I was
 going to see Caroline ...
 When she opened the door she was
 someone else -- a Negress who wore
 a clear green skirt, who stood
 on the mantle and undressed ...
 who took a flashlight to bed
 who told me about her dead brother ...

I was in the bathroom, the
 lights off, tongues of snow
 coming through the window ... I was
 crosslegged on the floor, naked and wet ...
 I could smell the fires
 in the mills ...

-- Craig Sterry

Irvine, Calif.

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