

Dream of the Feast

by Jerry Ratch

I'd caught a small fish
but there wasn't enough room on the bridge
to reel it in completely
so I carried it hanging from my pole
along the edge of the traffic

A fine black dog joined me
following me into the shack
at the end of the bridge
There was a red collar
around his neck
with a name tag that read:
Alaska

I could see that the dog
was determined to have the fish
but I realized I'd better
remove the hook
so the dog wouldn't swallow it

The little fish was squirming
trying to say something
but the dog had already convinced me
to give him the fish
since it was so small

When I removed the hook
from the fish's mouth
there was the tiny body of a woman
impaled on the hook
and a strand of dried

earthworm, or seaweed
Or maybe rhinestones

