

Renee Norman

Caught!

hook in a trout's mouth
she calls excited
wants to let the creature loose
the cruel mangle of pin
an eagle swoops down
to grab
she so willing to relinquish

the eagle prepares her
for the futility of tenderness
but the trout
scales a glint of silver
struggling for air in light
strained through thick trees
blood staining the pocket
of her nylon jacket
(it holds a penny leaking red)

the trout tutors her
in the luxury of mercy