

*Patti Scheibel*

## **Submersion**

There is green peaceful water  
With fish drifting in and out  
Under the cover of anonymity.

Dive in with me  
So deep and dirty no one can see.

There are places where creatures with eyes  
Bugged out and paler than white  
Hide,  
Where no voices can be heard.

Dive in with me  
Let me wrap you in a watery body  
And breathe away your boundaries  
Until everything is fluid and giving.

There is a death like rain,  
Redemption without pain,  
Thornless and soft,  
Reasonless,  
A passion too dark to be seen,  
Too gentle for the air.

## Meat

“Eat your meat,” they say.  
It lies dead on my plate,  
Gray on the outside,  
Pink on the inside,  
Marbled with strings of white fat.  
“Eat your meat so you’ll grow up to be big and strong.”  
It’s moist,  
That’s the worst.  
When you chew and chew it remains in a lump  
Until finally you swallow it whole  
Because you can’t stand the feel of it in your mouth.  
You can never eat enough.  
There is always more  
on the red strawberry platter in the center of the table.  
“In this house no one goes hungry,” they say.  
You linger over your carrots and milk.  
They at least seem friendly and bright  
While on either side of you the adults  
Gnaw at the bones,  
Watching you,  
Sharp eyed.  
You are within their hands’ reach  
And they are huge from years of eating meat.