

Landscapes: the Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language

Volume 3 | Issue 1

Article 5

January 2009

Therapy Like Fish

Marcella Polain
Edith Cowan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Polain, M. (2009). Therapy Like Fish. *Landscapes: the Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language*, 3(1).

Retrieved from <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol3/iss1/5>

This Poetry is posted at Research Online.
<https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol3/iss1/5>

Therapy like Fish

He has eyes like a sky he wants me to fall into.
On his wall is an illusion, an invitation
a shutter that opens over miles of sea.

Squalls come and go all afternoon,
light pales yellow and mauve, an old bruise.
I doze and wake from dreams of a storm and a shuttered room,
my tongue thick as a page.

Somewhere, I know, there are lines of notes.
Oh, saviour, let me cut them up
re-arrange them for you, into poems:

they. Will read. like suffering.
Also. Sometimes I have. hated. you.
At the beginning.
All night. I think. of. edges. and
how close. Can she. I get.

(For once – just once – hold out your hand.
Let me touch you with one finger
the way – did I tell you? – I was alone and
someone touched me)

You are unreadable as the surface of the sea.
Still I have seen the shadow of a single sentence
swim a dark leviathan across your face.
You are witness to the words I haul, one by one,
into the glistening palms of my hands.
Such small offerings.
How they twitch there, naked and translucent
as fish.

How many times will I long to fall
through the sky, into the deep pool of your arms
to be weightless, still
an unasked question?

Marcella Polain

First published in Polain, Marcella. Therapy like Fish: New and Selected Poems. Melbourne: John Leonard Press, 2008.