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## Darter

Rose van Son

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## **Darter** *by Rose van Son*

1. Down-feathered  
wings out  
you greet me  
by the edge of this  
Big Wide River  
your neck strikes space  
between limestone and sky

2. A school of fish  
jack-knives water's surface  
plays games of fate  
neck turned  
you listen  
stories in the afternoon

3. The two of us  
paint fisherman  
silhouette colours his hat  
a shade darker

You do not falter  
movement is rare  
stoop occasionally to bury secrets  
behind your head

A caw distils  
serenity

Afternoon shadows  
pass two-fold

4. Twins  
tip the balance  
disgust patterns your face

Wake pleats shadows  
uncertainty spreads

Still you stand your ground

5. Confidence  
smarts your face

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try the water again  
paddle sequence

Your neck the only reminder of your visit

Rose van Son is a WA writer and educator; she loves language and culture. Her poems and short stories have been published in several journals including *Westerly* and *Indigo*. In 2000 she won the Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Award.

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