

Ian McPhail

a supple river as frosty as toothpaste
a soft body like frosted toothpaste

water is soft like gum
so damned soft it looks like its
supple as gum

a pink flesh
for meat

a string white blanket of fat
for the teeth...

strip that away and below
it,

 a goosebump

crampy cold water biting the meat
of your calf muscle

gray drowned meat

gray drowning sky

torn

an ultra violet ray leathered
from its withering output
the sun's poisonous tower

a stick up job
stealing your prison
slips a mask on

slips on a face
cracking brainbone
covering up tracks with more tracks

covering up tracks with poor juice
covering up tracks with no smile
scalded with an ugly mug

jumped frozen
slick of ice
slick of paw

the new day blindsides you

she flushes it down like a spiraling rage
destroying millions of budding minds
and personalities

a flushed chest, scarlet as a cherry tomato

cherry pop scrubbing the walls clean

clear cardinal blood

the toilet has a pink tongue whispering
the sunsets of the sewer

all my clothing is soaked in gasoline
it eats at my skin

the smell is the hazy horizon of the desert
light morning

vessel

she laughs and gummy candies pour from her lips slickened in wine

she opens a book she already knows and smiles