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## Fish Boy // Anniston, AL

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JASON GUISAO

# Fish Boy

They seize it from the wooden house at dusk.

    Their grand pigment  
        shoving at darker skin. Body-bound and fettered in tarpaulin.  
Pubescent sweat and urine pooling in the bed  
    of the corroded pick-up. Under a shadow-blanket, they  
batter its coffee cheekbones with steely pistols;  
    tear the left sleek-sphere from its gaping socket;  
        wrap a barbed cable around its burning throat.  
        Shoot the nigger above its right ear and cast  
        it out into the brook.

The good men find it,  
scab-legs emerging from the serpentine river at dawn;  
    loose-skin, cheeks overlapping onto puckered lips;  
        meaty veins protruding from the socket like stems.  
                                A silver ring on its index finger.  
  A gift from  
  Mother.

JASON GUISAO

# Anniston, AL

Grampy said: you were a  
boy  
until you were an uncle.

Grampy said: you were a  
nigger  
until you were dead.