1986

Broke Down Car

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Cover Page Footnote
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He swam against the current.
I didn't admire him
Nor the jelly people who then dove in to swim.

They swam so hard and quickly
Without thoughts to where they were going,
While me and my sister stood on
The shore knowing
And watching
The current
Change.

He was tired, worn out and thin
When another muscle-bound man jumped in
And swam the other way.
The jelly people started to sway
And follow.

But my sister and I avoid getting
Too close to pulpits lest we should fall in
And drown.

Anne Martin

BROKE DOWN CAR

broke down car
stopping slowly
limping off
onto the shoulder
it's raining hard
her feet are cold
no one passes
by here often
she will be here
quite awhile
she sits in silence
waits for hours
no one stops
to help her out
sometime later
he arrives
cold fear
and apprehension
close around her
shrinking stomach
filled with cold sweat
helps to make
her situation worse
then he smiles
she feels special
he speaks in tongues
to ease her fears
she thinks it's safe now
she climbs in his car
she holds him closely
as the rain dries
at her feet
no more cold now
only warmth inside her heart
she falls asleep
against his shoulder
he grins his teeth
and slits her throat

Brett McIntosh