

The Bear

The bear is not half the father
The stickleback or maned wolf is,
Not such a husband as the gander
Dolphin eagle dee p-voiced whale.
He does not nest like the beaver
Nor serve his mate like the coyote
Nor share her like the alpha gorilla.
His offspring he regards with anger,
More than the touch of the cannibal
Like tomcat, largemouth bass
Bull alligator and hog.
Dam and siblings he remembers
If at all as an old sow
With twins of unfamiliar smells.
Unlike the stag he does not gather
a crowd. Like the hermit thrush
He's wary of many eyes. With heron
And cypress he stands tall in the water.
Yet the bear is none of his avatars
Ancestors or bedtime stories.
His stink and fat have their own reason.
His heat and honey have their season.
His day is numbered with the condor.
He sleeps alone throughout the winter.