

Laying Hens Don't Need More than One Rooster

Laying hens don't need more than one rooster.
That's what my dad said when I asked him
how the farmer decided which chicken to sell us.

After the cash changed hands and the cockerel
was in a bag in the trunk we drove home
where Dad would hold it down on the stump out back,

chop off its head, let it run around
in the proverbial way spurting blood
all over the place until it collapsed

then put it in the speckled blue pot
of boiling water for awhile, take it out,
pluck it, gut it, and take it in to Mother.

Later, as usual no one said Grace
but we all gave thanks to Mother
for another great Sunday dinner.