

Amanda Bouvette

Smart Girls Fish

Smart girls fish
by casting their lines
and casting again
and waiting for the fish to bite.
Then reeling them in
for a closer look,
they see if they want to remove the hook
and throw them back
or keep them.

I am not a smart girl—
not as smart as I thought.
I like the way a fish looks
and jump headfirst into the water
to catch it with my bare hands.
Of course they get away,
and I come up again half-drowned
and count a new hook that stays
caught in my heart.

There are plenty of fish in the sea,
says the smart girl pumping water
out of my lungs
again.
She's right.
She did it right.
She got a bite
while she wasn't watching her pole!