

gave me a sour look and walked away.  
I'm sorry now I wasn't more polite  
and let him finish saving me.

-- James Hearst

Cedar Falls IA

#### COYOTE

Approaching Elm Hoist bridge down a hill so long  
& deep we could be entering hell a coyote runs  
ahead of the truck. It's a bright & wonderful  
morning. The coyote shines. He moves off the  
road & up the clay embankment, stops & looks at us.

We stop & look at him. During this short minute  
we discuss bounty, pelt price, beauty, whether or  
not he's holding up a hind leg. & my friend who's  
driving stopped. His younger brother would have  
pushed right on.

#### THE TUSKED BURROWERS

In the silt & marl bottoms the burrowing nymphs  
live a life unnoticed. Long-tusked dragons of a  
river's underworld, they create their own current  
with maribou gills. From where a man stands, fly  
rod in hand, the river is a wild refuge from an  
ex-wife who never calls. & only inches from his  
feet the long-tusked dragons are slowly breathing  
& flexing their jointed legs in a dance of great  
determination.

-- Rick Penn

High Bridge WI