

1983

## Fish Children

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## FISH CHILDREN

In the candle light  
that flickers on the bedroom wall  
your words hiss  
in a stream quick as small fish.  
They bite my fingertips

and each finger of mine  
births children, small fish  
streaming, blood-red  
as the wine at the side of your mouth.

Beneath hot sheets  
stained wine-red,  
dried fish cling to our flesh.

When I blow out the candle  
beside you, smoke roasts the air,  
flows into your ears,  
to tell you my love, my love,  
to tell you my love.

Angela Hoxworth