

Freshwater

Thirteen degrees,
the river swollen with the runoff
of ice and snow
yet sluggish in its banks,
craggy with ice floes.

I think of the fish
slumbering somewhere,
in its silty depths:
catfish and sturgeon,
quillback and carp,
the bottoms
a blanket of gills
stretching for miles,
fin-to-fin, nose-to-tail,
barely breathing
but dreaming of spring,
their daring leaps
into the air,
braving hook and net
for a taste of something
dry and alien,
pollen and new grass,
full sun in their faces,
a nameless craving
without beginning
and without
end.



Lauren Scharhag is an award-winning writer of fiction and poetry. She is the author of *Under Julia*, *The Ice Dragon*, *The Winter Prince*, *West Side Girl & Other Poems*, and the co-author of *The Order of the Four Sons* series. Her poems and short stories have appeared in over eighty journals and anthologies, including *Voice of Eve*, *Isacoustic*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, and *Gambling the Aisle*. She lives in Kansas City, MO. Find more @ www.laurenscharhag.blogspot.com.



The Pangolin Review, Issue 10, May 8, 2019