

Whales Rising

The whales of judgment are coming.
Up soar their dirigible bodies,
mighty leviathans surveilling the seas.

Beware you trawlers, seiners and trollers.
Draw in your greed, gillnetters, trapsetters
and dredgers, your verdict looms fast.

Gone is your impunity, sullied the vaunted
nobility you painted into fable and shanty.
Your accuser lies bloodied and gasping,

begging for life you strip away, depth
after depth. What perverse hunger—
to rape and spoil that which spawned you!

From the watery floor justice burgeons,
chastising gluttonous hulls. You ships
get dockside, or taste the barnacled deep.

—Darrell Petska