

# CutBank

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Volume 1  
Issue 12 *CutBank* 12

Article 15

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Spring 1979

## Mail Order

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### Recommended Citation

Dunn, Sharon (1979) "Mail Order," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 12 , Article 15.

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## MAIL ORDER

You work alone at the shop  
on the second floor above the grocery.  
It smells of sawdust, paint and rain.  
On school vacations I come with you  
and at the shipping table you show me  
what I will do.

Your hands  
dwarf mine, wrapping screws in cellophane.  
You fill the window feeders  
and the evening grosbeaks flock  
as soon as your back is turned.

Hours go by.  
This is a small town, no traffic, no noise.  
Only the flutter of back and yellow wings.  
At lunchtime you turn on the radio.  
I smooth the waxed paper  
and finger a jewel of grape jelly  
from the edges of the bread.

We work till five,  
you in the back room spraying feeders,  
and me separating labels saying  
Fragile, This End Up, Do Not Crush.