

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 12 *CutBank* 12

Article 19

Spring 1979

Crocodiles

Kim Maltman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Maltman, Kim (1979) "Crocodiles," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 12 , Article 19.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss12/19>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

CROCODILES

They smile, the stupid leatherheaded
beasts, like natural liars.
This is the permanent the stable
smile, the lazy stripped-down smile
that boredom breeds,
the smile of ducks
vanishing from ponds
into their red grins.
Let me remember that she smiled too
(once or twice)
and meant it
or that I did also on occasion.
Unerringly inside the trap is set,
off-center from the backbone,
smiling down at all of us.
Our mouths have opened wide.
We smile back by habit, hopefully.