

# CutBank

---

Volume 1  
Issue 54 *CutBank* 54

Article 12

---

Fall 2000

## Herpetophilia

Kimberly Johnson

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

Johnson, Kimberly (2000) "Herpetophilia," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 54 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss54/12>

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](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

## HERPETOPHILIA

You love the garden—warm rocks, scales sun-gilt,  
florid bract of bougainvillea, scarlet  
and vermilion. Lime trees drop tight green fists.  
Mosses dapple, wet sand dimples near the tidal pool.  
Flutter your tongue—slight wind, leaves whispering  
above your body, the blue air is mothled, like  
thin papers, wings whispering..

You are the genius of my garden—you, coiled  
In a warm skin, supple, prescient.  
Grass greens as you touch it. Grass opens  
To take you in. Green grass closes around your trail.