Cattle Mutilation

Mark Rozema

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss26/15

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.
Cattle Mutilation

Casner and I
were checking rain gauges
when we found the cow,
stiff and bloated
like a balloon, her ears
neatly clipped off.
Casner shuffled away,
cursing. It's been happening
more and more, we find
one here, one there,
with glassy eyes
round as the moon.
sometimes the lips
sometimes the eyes
sometimes the testicles
or even the heart.
And no blood, as if
it had been drained
beforehand.

Helaman Noyes thinks
Satan worshippers are
the cause of it.
Glen Ekker says
It's them goddamn
government people
doin military experiments
the sonsabitches.
Whoever it is,
they leave no clues.
It gives cowboys the creeps.
The strangest thing,
the worst thing.
is how the carcasses
go untouched. Crows

(no stanza break)
won't pick at them, coyotes won't come near.
We left the cow and drove away.
It's about time we had some rain
Casner said.

— Mark Rozema