

Farm Justice

Rough framed pock marked
concrete porch horizontal
white slats broken
by brown barred screen against
this backdrop spaniel-mix Herbie
observes through alert black ear
sunlit wealth in copper
gold and red feathers
and the linen-haired
child barefoot dusty
denim overalls faded
shirt holes across knee and elbow
the white cup in his hand
giving water to a thirsty
bantam hen.

Feathers blood
stained paws
killed chickens
untrustworthy
We shot Herbie.