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The Whale Sashimi Restaurant

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THE WHALE SASHIMI RESTAURANT

Choi, The Whale Sashimi Restaurant



**JEONGRYE
CHOI**

**TRANSLATED BY
BRENDA HILLMAN & WAYNE DE FREMERY**

Who caught the baby whale?
Beneath the restaurants standing in a row,
it is raining,
waves call out before our eyes,
and the whale, not knowing it is dead,
calls out for its mother's breast.
It tries to seize the hem of a skirt.
Slipping away, it floats around,
opening its dead eyes
in the rain.
It catches the hem of a wave
sweeping out to sea.
Its dead mouth opens wide
trying to follow the wave.
Its dead tail and dead fin paddle along.
Rain washes down
the window of the restaurant in streaks.
The edge of the sign,
each branch of the Tree of Heaven,
the whale's forehead, its heart, its guts and flippers,
try to wash away
with the desperation of things that can't.

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