**No Bones**

Just because you say you’re a poet

doesn’t mean you are one.

You are already a poet and that

requires no acknowledgment from you.

There is no such thing as a good poet

only poets with audiences

of varying size, sometimes it’s

one or zero, that does not

remove your ability

to put together two units of speech

in a dancey singy kinda way.

Sometimes a poet is hated

by more than who love them.

If the ratio is <52:1, hate:love

then the hated poet is

actually evil, and must be

brought to justice at once.

But they are still a poet.

Say “I am a poet” to someone --

they may be indifferent,

embarrassed,

incredulous,

excited,

or they just want to buy stamps in peace,

the people who love you love you

will never love you less

if you say that you are a poet.

If they say they love you less

then they never loved you at all.

Love is not a transaction

love is not a weapon

love is not a boob

but why am I telling you all this?

You already know love and poetry

come from you unbidden unbitten

unbuttoned undulating

like a jellyfish -

delicate

graceful

translucent

water built

potentially lethal

no eyes

just a bell

with arms

for mouths

immortal under

the right

conditions.

Your poetry doesn’t have to DO anything

but it doesn’t NOT have to do something.

Exercise caution when affixing a leesh

to your jellyfish, one or both of you

might come out worse for it.

Also you both might not.

Takes practice. Taxes praxis.

Does a little dance on the back of a hagfish.