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How Many Hands Does the Trout Have?

Lannie Stabile

The last river that touched me
shot down the mountain
like a bullet through a ruddy duck.
Impatient and entitled,
water spilled into my mouth
before a wave could swell.
And try as I might,
I could not avoid the jumping fish.
In my arms, in my lap, between lips
too tired to dam the currents.

Lannie Stabile (she/her), a queer Detroiter, is the winner of OutWrite's 2020 Chapbook Competition in Poetry and a back-to-back semifinalist for the Button Poetry Chapbook Contest. Lannie was also named a 2020 Best of the Net finalist. Her debut poetry full-length, Good Morning to Everyone Except Men Who Name Their Dogs Zeus, was published in 2021 by Cephalopress. In 2022, look out for her fiction debut, Something Dead in Everything (ELJ Editions). Find her on Twitter @LannieStabile or @NotALitMag, where she throws random writing contests and open mics.