

Bury Your Guilt in Water

by William Garland

after Harry Crews

When you kill a wild dog, you'd best not throw it
out with the trash. You bury that guilt.
Fill that hole with water.

When your kill comes back with a mind to find you,
& that stench stretches
up onto your porch, tries to get in your nostrils,
the rotgut dog's gonna take
that first deep breath they all wanna take
when they come to.

If you're cunning enough to fill that hole,
the reek that covers your guilt will shovel
in a mouthful — choke on your water.
It won't come find you.