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## *Acting Out Among the Ferae Naturae*

Colin James

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drowning him.

When he got to the Elysian Fields, the gods said to him, "why did you take the anchor?"

"Because I was a fool," he replied. "I was greedy. I thought my offerings would be enough. I thought, because the stingray stayed, I must be meant to have the anchor."

Poseidon, an eel on each side of him, laughed heartily. "The fickle delights of man! You did not even ask about it!"

*You told me I could take it; you didn't say your guards were about it!*

An owl flew down and cocked its head at him. Slowly it became the vision of the Goddess Athena.

She smiled sadly at him. "You did not think hard on my words. When taking something from the gods, there is always a price to pay. It is not up to you to name that price."

Ian simply nodded.

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## Acting Out Among The Ferae Naturae

by Colin James

I'm expecting a parcel.  
It will contain  
refurbished sandals,  
hazelnuts from  
Tolkien's garden  
and some decent tea.  
Neither vernacularisms  
nor generic abstractions  
can prevent my  
beseeching me.