

1958

Action

William Stafford

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

Recommended Citation

Stafford, William. "Action." *New Mexico Quarterly* 28, 2 (1958). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol28/iss2/8>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Quarterly* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

ACTION

*The bolo's a knife you grab at the awkward end
and swing till it whistles a wind
that brings back flowers in the fall—
you whirl the wind down the street to straighten it all.*

*Or you go dancing and break a champagne glass—
many a life can be saved by mistakes like this:
the arm freely swings,
you lean and escape opposite from the whirlwind.*

*For today reading signs faster than signs can be read
is not fast enough: start at the other end
and go by sound; listen like bats in crisis
when they dodge things by dusk that widen the face.*

*Shadows begin to knife through the dark;
you claw the wings wider for turns. Don't
wait—whisper "Bolo!"
and swing toward the mark.*

—WILLIAM STAFFORD