LUPUS

by Bud Smith

Flannery O'Connor's

Collected Short Stories
is too big to bring to the beach

so I take a razor blade and cut down the center of the spine making two smaller books

one book has
"A Good Man Is Hard To Find"
on that I glue *Rodan! The Flying Monster!*wrapped around, front to back
to keep the spine together
a bandage made
from a glossy junk magazine

the other razor blade half
has "Everything That Rises
Must Converge"
on that one
I glue, Godzilla emerging
from a bubbling
red sea

while I get sunburnt and read the book someone comes by selling cans of beer out of a black plastic bag they ask about
my strange books
I say
"They're about
a woman
who was attacked
by a wolf
but somehow survived"

he is also selling beach towels replicating the Puerto Rican flag or others with peacocks purple and green but I am fine, laying on hot sand

I buy a frozen mango slushy to go with my can of beer it all tastes like a fizzy demonic peach

out in the ocean I spy a cargo ship trolling across a difficult horizon.