

Rangoon Zoo

The polar bear sat
sweltering
near its single
factory delivered
2 x 1 ½ x 1 foot
block of
yellow
ice –
dejected bear –
the tropical
heat is killing –
the seal in
the rectangular swimming
pool had
a little better
luck –
bear and seal exchanged for
priceless rare
*takin*¹--
very soon the bear

¹ A takin is an endangered animal from the mountains in the north of Burma. I have only seen one once in Rangoon Zoo, before it was exchanged. It looks like a mix between a water buffalo and a small bison.

fed on corn on the cob
the keepers had stolen the
meat for
their families
very naturally died –
the otter pool is bereft of swimming and squealing otters and
the tigress – loose skin on bones
must have by now
died –
the same tigress that
in her youth
bit the hand
of the keeper who showing off
too familiarly
patted her
head –
Take that
she said.