

SEPTEMBER MORNING

Standing beneath the golden oaks
as acorns clatter and squirrels scold
I watch a burnished skein of deer
step single file across the road.
Spotting me, they startle and turn
back to the newly stubbled fields
where the gleaming coils of autumn mist
hide much more than they reveal.

I have not spoken
I have not asked;
but this September morning
has answered me, at last.

NEAR MISS

Predators miss more often than we know.
Hawks may strike a mere glancing blow.
Sharks grow confused in schools of silver fish.
Wolves go hungry more often than they wish.
Chance and change will sometimes intercede,
and the hunter overlook a tantalizing lead;
or stumble past a trail not yet grown cold
where a wild heart strayed a scant moment ago.

CUT CHRYSANTHEMUMS

A clutch of cut chrysanthemums
copper, gold, and bronze,
and everyone who sees them says
how glorious they are.

How bright and bold the petals
though many weeks have passed.
The stems turn black and slick with slime,
but still the flowers last.

So, time to throw the flowers out?
Oh, give them another day--
for who can bear to toss aside
cut chrysanthemums in a vase?

SLEEPING WITH THE CAT

Breathing in lockstep
my cat and I drowse
in the sun-spilled room.

Through slotted eyes
he watches

pricking the quilt
with his carpet tack claws,
shredding the convoluted cords
that bind me to my dreams.



SLEEPING

WITH

THE CAT

by

DEBORAH R. BARCHI

A KILLER OF HOUSEPLANTS

She is a killer of houseplants
and has been all her life.
When she takes them home
they tremble and wilt,
knowing they soon must die.

What can they do, legless as they are
if fate has decreed this unkind end:
to die overwatered and underfed.

She doesn't mean to kill them, after all;
in truth, she wants only this--
to be surrounded by living green,
yet no ivy, potted jade, or cactus in a dish
has ever lived to satisfy her need.

Please recycle to a friend.

Questions

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Origami Book and Poem

SLEEPING WITH THE CAT

by Deborah R. Barchi

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