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Cover art: Jenny Hudson

Origami Poetry Projects™

## The Long Night

(cat-induced sleep deprivation)

Jenny Hudson © 2012



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(cat-induced sleep deprivation)



Jenny Hudson

I crank out my loudest purr,  
But she rolls.  
I leap over her and poke her face.  
Wake up.  
Wake UP.  
Dawn is coming.

I rub her nose hard with my own.  
When not playing dead,  
she calls that kissing.  
I wet her face with my tongue  
and rest my paw on her hand.  
Mmmm, she says  
And opens her eyes.  
She rubs my ears,  
And touches my nose.

I smell the chicken she ate last night,  
still on her breath.  
Did she give me any?  
No!

Maybe she'll toss it  
For me to bring back.  
NO! she feels for the ball  
and hides it under her pillow.  
I burrow my head in there,  
Searching.  
She pushes me away.  
Her eyes barely open,  
she clasps the ball,  
Drops it in an end table drawer  
and slams it shut.

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All that's in my dish is  
Food-scented hard stuff  
scooped from the bag.  
I want meat from a can,  
from that big box  
that lights when she opens it.

But she's a mountain,  
rolled in her covers  
playing dead.

I land.  
She screams *NO!*  
as I bite her toes.  
She kicks,  
but I scamper to a far corner of the bed.

I leap to retrieve a foil ball  
from the stash under the couch,  
carry it in my mouth,  
then kick it over her head.