Death and Resurrection of a Cat

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Death and Resurrection of a Cat

Her life had been as most: impulse quick, acting out an instinct bred the size of rat's feet scuttling across hardwood floors. A hunter of ancient toothless insects. Still, life always seemed enough as she staggered in the grass, milk-drunk, and collapsed on a million lightbeams, purring.

She lived overstuffed as the cushion that held her impression warm, long after stepping out for a meal (and back again). Catnapping. Suckling kittens. Growing old with age tucked beneath calico hair, settling in bones ready to leave their skeleton in the cool ground.

Fifteen years. But the sixteenth, like a kitten pawing wild at imagination, pain twisting slowly, until blind she began to step in her dish; each time shaking off the indignation, like shit on a silk slipper. Tearing out claws one by one until fur hung thick with blood, and the service porch like the aftermath of punctured arteries.


Seventeen years to die, and only eight more times to go.

—R. Blain Andrus

R. Blain Andrus is a poet living in Reno, Nevada.