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Gratitude

Mary B. Moore

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Mary B. Moore

GRATITUDE

for Marie and Lorie

The stump-tailed cat lives with a blue-haired woman
and a red-haired man in a house whose bricks
are books. Today the woman carries
a pocketful of apricots to a bowl,
and puts a red rose wide as her hand
in a blue and white vase.
Red-gold threads curl loosely
in the rose's center, filaments
of the sun. The apricots are suns too, furred
like the blond hair on a girl's bare arms.
Marigolds, named for Mary's gold
which is mercy, flower in small
blue pots at the windows.
(The blue-haired woman is not religious
but remembers where she comes from.)

A sickness got into the black cat's tail,
his balancer and dancer:
somebody took it away while he slept,
but now he leaps from the wingback chair
to the top of the bookshelves.
Pleased with himself, he primps
beside Aristotle. In the house made of books
the red-haired man reads, the blue-haired
woman writes poems.
The inky cat lies on a book.