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El Gato y la Luna/The Cat and the Moon

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El Gato y la Luna

*When two close kindred meet,
What better than call a dance?*

—W. B. Yeats

El gato de mi vecina arquea su lomo
como el arco de la luna.

La luna

relame sus bigotes como gato
y llora por un platito de leche.

Mi vecina ve televisión
(pero no llora)
y se desliza furtivamente por la hierba
inventando pasitos de baile.

Micifuz o Minnaloushe

la luna

me tenderá esta noche su mano
y yo le diré (con los ojos cambiantes):

“Oh lo siento, no me gusta bailar.”

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The Cat and the Moon

*When two close kindred meet,
What better than call a dance?*

—W. B. Yeats

The neighbor lady's cat arches its back
like the arc of the moon.

The moon
licks her whiskers like a cat
and wails for a saucer of milk.

The neighbor lady watches TV
(but doesn't wail)
and creeps through the grass,
inventing a new dance turn.

Cheshire Puss or Minnaloushe,
the moon
will hold out her hand to me tonight
and I'll tell her (with changing eyes):

"I'm sorry, but I don't like to dance."

[*Translated by G.J. Racz*]