

Fall 1977

She was Afraid of Light

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Recommended Citation

Cox, Dorothy (1977) "She was Afraid of Light," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 9 , Article 3.

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SHE WAS AFRAID OF LIGHT

That winter she made a paper boat,
poured his ashes into it, lit a candle
in the center and pushed the boat
to the middle of the lake.

The whole town saw it burn.
That winter and into the summer
she burned.
She didn't look out the window.

Every night for nine years
she walked to the lake
to pitch stones
until the night she couldn't hear water.
She closed her eyes.

She lit all the lights in the house.
Through the window she saw firemen
uncurling their hoses.