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## an old cat

Stacia Hill

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# AN OLD CAT

**STACIA HILL**

gray bones sprawled out  
under sunlight that tastes of bronze  
squinting eyes, drowsy gaze –  
ears made of suede

he pads along dirt trail, the same path each day  
through bushes and tall grass  
loose fur collects on the ends of snagging twigs

his whiskers are kinked, some too short  
to be of much use. his nose, a dry gray  
river-worn pebble. his chalk bones press  
themselves against a thin gray hide.

he watches cars driving past his yard,  
the tip of his tail twitches once  
every few minutes, until it grows still.  
he lays his chin against the sun  
parched grass, lemondrop eyes blink

closed, never to open again. he sleeps  
under warm august sun.