

# CutBank

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## Congenitalia

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## CONGENITALIA

I'm talking about a dog with mange,  
but your house could have termites too.  
You might have built them in  
with a spare bedroom,  
or you might have brought them home  
in a new piece of furniture.  
Most likely they were there  
from the beginning, tiny egg sacs  
nestled next to pitch pockets  
in your framing timbers. The man  
at the lumber yard didn't know.  
Like an old monk with syphilis,  
he'd have gladly built his own house  
from that wood. So why do these  
things happen? There's no carpentry,  
no medicine for what comes rotting  
from the womb. I don't know why  
any more than you, but my dog's  
a gun dog, so I will take my gun  
and find the proper point of aim  
to put an end to pointless pain.