

Fall 1978

The Next Time It Rains

John T. Poe

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Recommended Citation

Poe, John T. (1978) "The Next Time It Rains," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 11 , Article 36.

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THE NEXT TIME IT RAINS

After the rain
had stopped
 mama would look up
at the patched roof
and words
 would float from her mouth
like smoke
 know it won't be fixed
the next time it rains
and the porch
worned down to the
spots of rusted nails
holding the splinter like boards together
 and when the snow
rested beside
 the sinking pillars
the half naked dog
would dig it's way under the clipper
house
 and moan
 like a baby
 until the dirty is warm
while the smell
of burning pine
flooded the room
 we would sit around
waiting for the
log to disappear.