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Fox at 4 A.M.

Robin Chapman

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Fox at 4 A.M.

Starlit on snow crust he flows
across the yard, dark-furred,
pricked ears raised as though
he had some place to go—stops,
curls up a moment, though
some movement of my own
behind the glass perhaps
caught the corner of his eye,
for he rises, trots on
toward the compost pile,
vanishing like a thought
too fugitive to hold—
and I return to sleep,
at last, dreamlessly,
as though he had been
the dream; though morning
shows his footprints
in the snow.

Robin Chapman

ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of nine poetry books, most recently *Six True Things* (Tebot Bach, 2016). She was the recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Flyway*, *Poetry East*, and *Terrain*, among other journals.