**Animal Instincts**

One in the morning

the space beside me is vacant

unsettling light

peers through the crack under the bedroom door

I catch you

watching reruns of a nova science series

some Darwin special on survival of the species

I'm not sure what the attraction is

the aggressive hunt for their next kill

or the screams of elk humping in mating season

*Go back to sleep I’ll be up soon* you say

my fleshy body flails

unshaven legs rub against the sunburnt sheets

I cup my pubic bone with one hand

hold my heart with the other

a beast in the basement howls

thumps up the stairs

comes to our bed

under your T-shirt

I seek solace

in your blue ox shape

discover

more hair on your back

than there used to be