

# Alec Soth's Archived Blog

July 27, 2007

## Friday Poem

Filed under: poetry — alecsothblog @ 3:05 am

### **A Rabbit as King of the Ghosts**

by Wallace Stevens

The difficulty to think at the end of day,  
When the shapeless shadow covers the sun  
And nothing is left except light on your fur—

There was the cat slopping its milk all day,  
Fat cat, red tongue, green mind, white milk  
And August the most peaceful month.

To be, in the grass, in the peacefulest time,  
Without that monument of cat,  
The cat forgotten in the moon;

And to feel that the light is a rabbit-light,  
In which everything is meant for you  
And nothing need be explained;

Then there is nothing to think of. It comes of itself;  
And east rushes west and west rushes down,  
No matter. The grass is full

And full of yourself. The trees around are for you,  
The whole of the wideness of night is for you,  
A self that touches all edges,

You become a self that fills the four corners of night.  
The red cat hides away in the fur-light  
And there you are humped high, humped up,

You are humped higher and higher, black as stone—

You sit with your head like a carving in space

And the little green cat is a bug in the grass.

## 11 Comments

1. beautiful

*Comment by w robert angell — July 27, 2007 @ 4:07 am*

2. [...] Contact the Webmaster Link to Article west 8 Friday Poem » Posted at alec soth – blog on Friday, July 27, 2007 A Rabbit as King of the Ghosts by Wallace Stevens The difficulty to think at the end of day, ... of itself; And east rushes west and west rushes down, No matter. The grass is full And full View Original Article » [...]

*Pingback by University Update - West 8 - Friday Poem — July 27, 2007 @ 4:45 am*

3. yes. so beautiful. thanks.

*Comment by jennifer — July 27, 2007 @ 10:06 am*

4. So that's where they got the idea for The Curse of the Were-Rabbit... No, actually, the Stevens is probably closer in spirit to Miyazaki than Nick Park (to combine rabbits and Japanese — hey, is Totoro a kind of rabbit?)

*Comment by Mike C. — July 27, 2007 @ 10:50 am*

5. "I felt like I was in demented Wallace Stevens poem with food poisoning"

-Spalding Gray

*Comment by Cary — July 27, 2007 @ 2:53 pm*

6. Nice

*Comment by chacha — July 27, 2007 @ 5:00 pm*

7. take me back to Watership Down...

*Comment by Craig — July 27, 2007 @ 5:09 pm*

8. photo-related: justine kurland used this poem as inspiration for and the title of a show she curated last summer at mitchell-innes & nash. love the poem, but was completely baffled by the show.

not-so-photo-related: i think this poem was also inspiration for a short story by kelly link called "stone animals," which is just incredible. you can find it in either her collection "magic for beginners" or "best american short stories 2005."

*Comment by rachel — July 28, 2007 @ 4:41 pm*

9. my god, i love it! thanks a lot

*Comment by CHRISCHA — July 29, 2007 @ 1:15 pm*

10. Rachel, this is great information. Thanks so much.

*Comment by Alec Soth — July 29, 2007 @ 6:21 pm*

11. a poet magician

*Comment by robert — August 17, 2007 @ 1:40 pm*