

THE F A B B & P P

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sitting up
with my dying cat
on Christmas morning

trying to figure out
if she was in pain

ONLY WAITING (WHAT
ELSE COULD BE
DONE)

Christmas morning
a Saturday
no where to take
her no one who'd
come

ANOTHER OF HER
EPISODES OF STRAIN
AND STILLNESS

as she slowly
separates from
life and from us

next to me on the
sofa arm (i'd
lean over to her and
she'd lean back
against my head
touching)

now she's
watching as i write
not wondering, as
i would be, what
was

going on
just waiting, as
quietly
as she can

the sun is rising
behind low grey
clouds there is
a handkerchief

of snow on the
lawns and parked
cars

the furnace has come
to life, the other
cats wander and
take their breakfast

another day
the last or first
or next

depending on
who's counting

and all this time
thinking about
myself and
scribbling while
my old friend
withdraws
behind her gaze

i realize that's
the difference, for
me

she never was
counting

i should stop
counting

and this isn't
waiting it's
just being

(she lowers her head
to her paws and
goes into
her recumbent
torpedo
pose to
rest)

December 25, 1993



FLASH ZONKER CADILLAC MIDNIGHT

c. July 4, 1974 - December 26, 1993



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