


2-20-2018

Two Poems

Dan MacIsaac

Poet

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Recommended Citation / Citation recommandée

MacIsaac, Dan. "Two Poems." *The Goose*, vol. 16, no. 2, article 38, 2018,
<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol16/iss2/38>.

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Cheetah in 60 Seconds

Lithe-legged and rudder-tailed,
the chaser twists and lunges
for a panicked springbok bolting
over the bronzed veldt.

It rises to the blurred
cross-beat of hooves
and hide streaked over
flanks sizzling like cymbals.

Jaws snap at the antelope's
pallid throat and lock fast
to the drumskin of gullet,
stifling that swift hot pulse.

Timing the Cheetah

Ever a long shot, the speedster accelerates
into the most remote rift of Africa,
outcast from a ravaged range,
revving into the worst scorched space,
racing against a dire clock,
hitting the Mach speed of mass extinction.
Pitiless that ticking face of the sun running
down.

DAN MACISAAC is a trial lawyer and served ten years as a director on the board of the Environmental Law Centre at UVIC. In 2017, Brick Books published his debut collection of poetry, *Cries from the Ark*. His poetry has appeared in many journals, including *The Malahat Review*, *Cirque*, and *Agenda*. His website is danmacisaac.com.