

Castle Cats

by Barbara Alfaro

On the stone steps near the kitchen,
above the grotto, a trio of grey cats
snuggle in the smell of what cook
is preparing for guests. Nearby,
a striped kitten sits undecided
while a slim black cat
jumps beside a rose bush.
Rubbing, purring and roaming,
similar cats conspire in the courtyard.
Mousers, each one of them,
felines, efficient at killing—
affectionate, sensual, warm,
enjoying the Tuscan sun.