

## For Sale by Owner

by J. J. McKenna

FSBO and then sold. We gave away  
what others might use—a husk  
of hope and the lessons of good intent  
gone sadly awry, the notion  
that you would always be mine.

The rest we piled in jumbled array  
at the curb—those grudges from fights  
that fed and fattened on bitter nights  
when we each slept huddled and alone.

Now our accumulations, those gauls  
grown from the constant chafing  
of the years, are shed like the skins  
of Sonoran snakes, snagged on spines  
of jumping chollas and prickly ocotillos.

So we peel off our past. Scrubbed  
by the pumice of pain, we'll start  
off wearing our tender new skin  
leaving everything, everything else, behind.

Just now, it's impossible to say whether  
we've sold or given ourselves away.