

# Instincts

by Maren O. Mitchell

A grasshopper bitten by a cat  
then released  
doesn't yell to the nearest hopper  
to call the ambulance, the cops, the insurance company . . .  
doesn't perform first aid on itself . . .  
doesn't pray for more life before death,  
more life after death . . .  
doesn't even lie quiet trying to keep warm,  
minimizing shock. It hops—  
entrails trailing  
out and  
after it,  
and hops—  
until its insides either catch up  
with its outside  
or leave a trail ending under cover.