

# How to Housebreak a Shadow

*Carolyn Moore*

After catastrophe, perform in silk  
under harsh lights and over the day's fresh  
newspapers spread across the floor.

During its convalescent growth, console  
the shadow sniffing, cowering, at your feet.  
Pat it and point the papers out.

Tell it the intricate, shadow-free frost etched  
on your pane is winter's fleeting jealousy.  
Coax and hoist its confidence.

Push its nose in each failure—yet grant  
it stints of thrills and frolic at the end  
of the mindful leash teaching restraint.

Once, fractured and ambivalent, it shows  
collared obedience, reward it. Call it  
*Grief* and feed it beneath the sink.

