

Monica Carroll

After Schrödinger

I cannot	tell you	what to do
about lifting	the boxes	of dead cats
bend with	your knees	save your back
But knees	only lower	they cannot bend
unless you	are someone	made of plastic
ratchet joints	easily broken	like burdened backs
To bury	the cats	you must dig
past clay	my advice;	use a pick
not spade	you'll reach	bedrock before sunrise

Spine

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A tiny village sprouted at the base of his spine

Two cottages poking the vertebrae, thickening his movements with thatch

Tallow candles snuffed at night, for night endures in the cavity

Cart-wheel spokes seeming to spin arseward as the tumbrel rickets along

A smitch of bow rakes and stirrup hoes mince garden

patches, always, by and by, hitting bedrock bone

Monica Carroll holds a PhD in philosophy and poetry from the University of Canberra and is a Donald Horne Creative and Cultural Fellow for the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research. Her academic publications include papers on space and writing. Her research interests include phenomenology, poetry and empathy. Her widely published prose and poetry has won numerous national and international awards.