

# Cabrigo

*by* Kitty Boots

the last snow melted half-way, froze overnight  
into an unyielding crust  
Felipe and Eladio grinding corn for the goats  
drink Budweiser and laugh at us

Kathy carries a cattle prod  
bucks are aggressive without the distraction of does  
Mariposa, the skinny hound, crawls out from under the trailer  
pouncing on the ice as we walk to the barn

weak light seeps through slats  
ankle-deep straw muffles footsteps  
the smell is female, musky  
rich with milk and blood  
the uneaten placenta reminds me of my own

I hold twins close to my chest  
rag dolls with glassy marble eyes  
Kathy begins to name them  
Liliana, Esmeralda...

she says they'll be ready to slaughter in time for Easter  
I'm invited, but I know I won't be back

