

## Taylor Graham

### Sun Shadow

A squat dark monolith, she's  
her own shadow in thrift-store faded  
black, even her hair. She gathers  
sun in front of the hardware store (not  
open yet) where winter rays hit  
first. It's 44 degrees by digital time  
& temp atop the bank downtown.  
But this is upper Broadway,  
where homeless tide for the night.  
I came here, myself, to collect  
morning sun. She looks up –  
she's awake with a wakefulness  
that comes naturally.  
When she stands, she disappears  
in reflective glass, a cold but  
temporary home.

**Taylor Graham** is a volunteer search-and-rescue dog handler in the Sierra Nevada, and serves as El Dorado County's first poet laureate (2016-2018). She's included in the anthologies *Villanelles* (Everyman's Library) and *California Poetry: From the Gold Rush to the Present* (Heyday Books/Santa Clara University). Her latest book is *Uplift* (Cold River Press, 2016).