

Edward H. Garcia

Raccoons

This morning there were two in the trap,
one curiously passive, the other, on top,
greeted me with a characteristic growl.
I opened the trap and wished them well,
hoping they were scared straight by their ordeal.
No, I do not wish them well.
I wish them, what?
Recurring nightmares, superstitious avoidance
of my house and my bird feeders,
raccoon post-traumatic stress disorder,
forever a fear of being enclosed?
"That is the place where bad things happen,"
I want them to say when they pass near,
"where the boogie man lives."
I am willing to be thought a monster, become a monster,
if they will just leave the damn bird seed alone.

Edward H. Garcia retired from teaching composition, literature, and creative writing in the Dallas County Community College District. He has undergraduate degree and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master's from the Ohio State University. He has published reviews, articles, stories and poems in *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Texas Observer*, *The Texas Humanist*, *Pawn Review*, *Texas Books in Review*, *Tex!*, *County Line Magazine*, *Bewildering Stories*, *The Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *Rio Grande Review*, *Amarillo Bay Literary Magazine*, *The Avalon Literary Review*, *Southwest Historical Quarterly*, *The Blotter*, *The Acentos Review* and *SFWP Quarterly*. Garcia is represented in *Texas in Poetry 2*, *Texas Short Stories 2*, *Literary Dallas*, and in two anthologies of writing by DCCCD faculty and staff, *Out of Dallas* and *Voices from Within*. Some of his poems have been translated into Albanian and published in an anthology of American poetry: *Poezia: bashkekohore amerikane*. Garcia lives on the upper east side of Texas with his wife Rica.