

Abigail Bottome

The Unmade Bed

The unfinished book lies open on the desk.
Piled beside the bed are others
not read or half and left
as you left your interrupted meal
hours ago. A caller came
without calling
and you went away.
The chair scraped the polished floor
as you rose to receive him.
You left the house
standing open to the night
unwatched and alone.

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A cat walks across the open book
Settles in supple repose
on its white pages.
Stares through murky shadows
at your unmade bed.

Abigail Bottome was born in Brooklyn New York, attended Boston University, and received B.A. and M.A degrees from Goddard College and a Ph.D. from the Union Institute. The coastal salt marshes of northern Massachusetts, near where she has lived for many years, were the subject of her dissertation, *Walking in Great Marsh*. She has particular interest in poetry and essay writing that addresses the natural world. Her poems have been published in the *Larcom Review*, *Endicott Review*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Somerville News*, *Portfolio* and *Watershed Journal*.