

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).