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Frost Scratches

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FROST SCRATCHES

Through the swamp cooler vents
tiny sounds like frost's fingers
scratch beneath the cover
to rip it from its tie downs
and enter boldly cold
like a busted-down door
while dog barks next door
senses the intrusion
and tries to warn in watchdog mode
until an investigation searches
out windows and listens beneath
the closed vents of the cooler
and silence prickles through air
like water slowly freezing
inward from its shores.

-Diane Webster
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