

# THE WRITERS' BEAT EDITED BY ANNIE DAWID

## 'Not a Plastic Bag' by Annie Dawid

Snagged, a dark shape swaying atop a fence  
Cars and trucks speed down 69  
No one stops, or even pauses.

In the back seat, my son in his booster  
My dogs careening window to window  
I pass the shape, discover its brown legs  
Its cry a torment, wailing.

U turn, and I park the car down wind  
A baby antelope, trying to imitate its elders  
Apparently, instead of going underneath,  
Jumped.

Legs akimbo, feces flying, stuck.  
Mother and herd long disappeared from view  
But I have seen them here before,  
White and golden speckling the valley floor.

Can I help it over without being kicked in the face?  
Terrified, it turns its terror upon me.  
I fear injury now  
My own child strapped in the car;  
A single mother must be prudent.

The second try, me flipping its hind heels high,  
I manage it.  
Free, it runs and runs toward its band,  
Never looking back.



Annie Dawid taught a fiction workshop this summer at the Taos Summer Writers Conference. Her third book, *And Darkness Was Under His Feet: Stories of a Family*, is available on amazon.com. A former professor of English at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, Annie is raising her son, Isaiah Max, and two dogs, Rafe and Fanny, in her cabin outside of Westcliffe at 9100 feet in the Wet Mountain Valley.



Colorado Desert Cattle



Columbine Cow



Confetti Cow

Paintings by Maureen Keenan-Mason.

Maureen Keenan-Mason is a painter residing in Pueblo West. She has won awards for her work judged at various art shows, as well as harvest and county fairs. Her work has also been displayed at antique stores, banks, libraries, galleries, restaurants and other businesses. She is a member of the Pueblo Art Guild and former Board Chair of the Windsor Arts Council. She welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at [MaureenArt@gmail.com](mailto:MaureenArt@gmail.com).

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