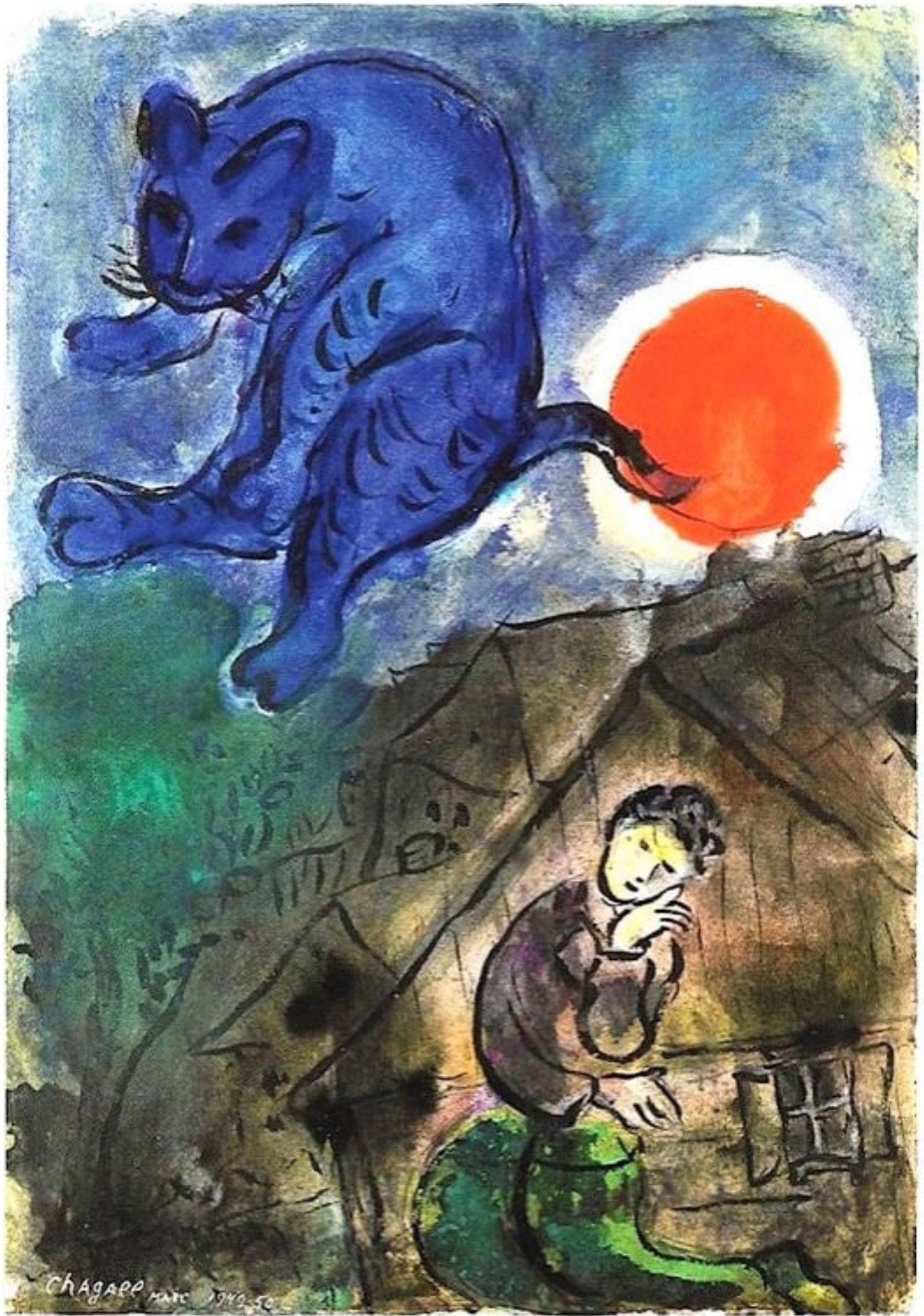


# My Cat

by [Nancy Byrne Iannucci](#) (November 2023)



Le poète, Marc Chagall, 1949-50

## My Cat

The moon is out—  
my cat calls me to bed,  
even though he's hiding under it.  
I try to put pen to paper,  
but I'm distracted,  
distracted  
by this holy junk of a world.  
My cat was anxious,  
but the storm's over now,  
his ginger warmth climbs up  
like the morning sun to face this place all over again,  
with a curl of his tail, a purr,  
and a lick, he's quick to forget  
the junk of this world.  
Oh, to be my cat:  
I could forget I miss you,  
forget the Left and the Right,  
Russia and Ukraine,  
the elections,  
the strikes,  
the changing climate,  
the broke and the woke.  
I could be a fraud of confidence and certainty  
in this holy junk of a world.

## My Other Cat

My other cat is Emily Dickinson.  
she should have been named Lavinia,  
after the Poet's sister, who was a true cat person.  
I don't think the Poet liked cats. she had a dog,  
a Newfoundland, Carlo, named after St. John's dog,

a character in *Jane Eyre*. I think this explains Emily's otherworldliness,  
her unease, and relentless meowing. Her needs are as tiring as  
the Poet's hands,  
clawing inside of her dainty gray cage like a parasite.  
If I could change her name, it'll set them both free,  
and so will the poems inside of me.

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Nancy Byrne Iannucci is a poet from Long Island, New York who currently lives in Troy, NY with her two cats: Nash and Emily Dickinson. Her work has been featured in *San Pedro River Review*, *34 Orchard*, *Defenestration*, *Hobo Camp Review*, *Bending Genres*, *The Mantle*, *Typehouse Literary Magazine*, and *Glass: a Poetry Journal*. She is also the author of three chapbooks, *Temptation of Wood* (Nixes Mate Review, 2018), *Goblin Fruit* (Impspired, 2021), and *Primitive Prayer* (Plan B Press, fall 2022). Visit her at [www.nancybyrneiannucci.com](http://www.nancybyrneiannucci.com) and Instagram: [@nancybyrneiannucci](https://www.instagram.com/nancybyrneiannucci).

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