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Karen's House

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Sarah McEllhenney is a senior Language Arts Education major at Cedarville University. She is a fan of unsweetened black tea, Faulkner, words, helping people learn, and sewing her own sundresses.

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Sarah McEllhenney

KAREN'S HOUSE

This house is cosmos-cold.
They cannot orbit.
Bleak-souled,
they have no axis.

They cannot orbit,
every room space-silent.
They have no axis.
Except for some inflections,

every room space-silent.
But your mom asks normal questions
except for some inflections
hints at a fragmented past I cannot know.

Your mom asks you normal questions
but I see why you left home.
That fragmented past?
Your dogs can't know it.

I see why you left home,
but dog claw-clacking is solar.
Your dogs can't know,
and your family thrives on unfettered caring.

Dog claw-clacking is solar,
and your family pets and chides.
But though they thrive on unfettered caring,
that fragmenting past competes with the hub's pull

so they never pet and chide
away from this surrogate family. They drift again because
that fragmenting past competes with the hub's pull
so this house is still cosmos-cold.