

## Three Poems by Mike Faran

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### Sailing Through Life With an Orange Pussy

It was a smooth-as-glass drive from  
Eagle Rock, Ca. to  
Apache Junction, Az.

She smoked joints with her girlfriend,  
Liz, and they listened to The  
Doors and a little Sinatra

But still, it was a long trip to retrieve  
a cat that was  
probably no longer there -  
more than likely dead or turned stray  
when she moved suddenly to L.A.

It was a fast move because  
she had to rely on her grown son who  
really didn't give a damn,  
just wanted to be back at work,

who didn't want to see  
his mother under the influence of drugs,  
hallucinating;  
even had to leave her junker car

But she was ok now,  
so long as she didn't wreck this rental

In Apache Junction they drove right  
up to the crumbling apt. complex where  
she yelled *Pussy, Pussy, Pussy!* and

the mangy orange cat jumped right  
threw the open window

*Everything is going my way!*  
She thought as they fishtailed back on  
the interstate;  
she patted her girlfriend's knee and took  
a long swig of Captain Morgan

## **sense of place**

when i want to write  
lighthearted shit  
i'll sit in the back  
garden  
with her roses &  
carnations  
sip lemon tea

when i want to write  
about stuff of  
this world  
i'll drive down to the  
coast  
at midnight

just close enough to  
the water so i can hear  
it  
just  
deep enough for a  
drowning

## Nora

I had wanted ease of  
mind for the summer,  
uncomplicated books  
and words.  
Birds winging south.

To retrace the events  
of an old life  
with the accuracy of a  
hand-mirror, to think

about her as she tread  
barefoot,  
even at fifty and danced  
in the  
simplicity of another  
summer.

But there was more to my  
life than her, and

sometime - when the  
soft-gray edges of autumn  
appear -  
these things will come to  
mind.

**Mike Faran** lives in Ventura, CA., a few miles south of Santa Barbara. He is the author of *We Go To A Fire* (Penury Press) and his work has appeared in *The Iodine Poetry Journal*, *Comstock*, *Slant*, *Plainsongs*, *Poem*, *Atlanta Review*, *Rattle* and others.