

Alan Britt

Caden, The Cat, Who Came To Us From A Feral Mother

Caden, our grey tabby with smoke rings
circling his knees, grey epaulets, and gesso
cheeks radiating the sublime innocence
experienced only by beloved housecats.

Caden flares his tail in mock defiance
before scampering to weave his tiny
shoulders around a stack of women's
high fashion magazines before circling
the seams of a dog gate and bounding
across an empty suitcase to a half empty
blue water bowl with filtered H₂O
on one side and life sustaining tuna
plus ocean fish on the other!

Caden was three months old when I
first wrote this poem but typed up fifteen
years later barely three years after he
died of a heart attack at my feet.

Who knew this little guy would leave
a hole in my heart big enough to
drive an eighteen-wheeler through.

Alan Britt has been nominated for the 2021 International Janus Pannonius Prize awarded by the Hungarian Centre of PEN International for excellence in poetry from any part of the world. Previous nominated recipients include Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Charles Bernstein and Yves Bonnefoy. Alan served as judge for the 2018 The Bitter Oleander Press Library of Poetry Book Award and was interviewed at The Library of Congress for *The Poet and the Poem*. He has published 18 books of poetry and served as Art Agent for the late great Ultra Violet while often reading poetry at her Chelsea, New York studio. A graduate of the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University he currently teaches English/Creative Writing at Towson University.

Alan Britt: [Library of Congress Interview:](http://www.loc.gov/poetry/media/avfiles/poet-poem-alan-britt.mp3)

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