

Maureen Sherbondy

Excuses, Excuses

None of the ordinary
my cat, my dog, my rat ate it,
or the vacuum cleaner
ran over it, ripping paper to shreds.
No, now a possum gives birth
at the end of the driveway
abandoning her babies.
Yes, I understand. She
had to take those small creatures
to the shelter. She couldn't
deliver the paper. And today's
conveniently-timed emergency
occurring right before
class, somehow the cows
escaped, wandered out.
They needed to be rounded
back up. And the internet's down,
his computer crashed, the ink cartridge
is empty and he's plum broke.
But the kidnapping
wins. Hands down.
A cousin in another country
taken. I never heard the outcome--
maybe he came home,
maybe he never returned,
just like those missing
assignments that vanished and never
made it back to me.

Maureen Sherbondy's forthcoming book is *Dancing with Dali* (February, 2020). I live in Durham, NC. www.maureensherbondy.com