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Uncertain Times

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Kat Bodrie is a professional editor and creative writer based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her prose and poetry have appeared in *Poetry South*, *Wild Roof Journal*, *West Texas Literary Review*, *Rat's Ass Review*, and elsewhere. Learn more at katbodrie.com.

Uncertain Times

“To some degree life will be uncertain no matter what we do.”
– Mick Scott

how do you know
you won't die tomorrow

in sunshine, driving to the public library,
Maui Jim sunglasses framing your oval face,

burgundy skinny jeans you'd hunted online
hugging your ass and thighs —

it's the perfect disguise

an ugly moment posing
with the right filter
—

I take issue with “uncertain”

we still walk & talk & fuck
& make jewelry

the measuring cup scoops out
the right amount of Science Diet cat food
twice a day

how can I not create some amount of certainty
for those I love
—

this year, my twentieth high school reunion
was cancelled

ten years ago, I refused to go

and found out after

none of my bullies were there

maybe I'll never see my friends in person again
maybe I don't need them

—

they say chaos breeds creativity
but this is normal

fear events are the state of the planet

we should start a newspaper
and call it Uncertain Times

—

in small print on page 1 section b
some UN adviser says we are living
in the shadow of nuclear war

it is always a shadow
bending over our shoulders
reaching for the Times

wouldn't it be ironic
if one day it strangled us

we never saw it coming

—

in December, before the pandemic
the bigwigs trimmed the fat: extraneous

editors whose work would siphon
to others. I sobbed

in front of the HR lady who said
I could take action if I felt it unfair:

I thought I was there
to turn in medical paperwork

for a standup desk to help my IBS
and reflux, back pain, poor circulation

I packed a box with all my unseen illnesses
and didn't look back

—
interviewer: what is it like
living in today's uncertain times?

the cat does not respond
continues licking her belly

like a furry seal on the verge
of sluggish extinction