

**Wilderness House Literary Review 11/4**

*Kurt Luchs*

**Encounter**

In the fine white gravel at my feet  
something quick, alive, disturbing the dust...  
It stops in my shadow --  
a five-legged wolf spider.  
Two legs are simply missing  
while another drags brokenly behind.  
We watch each other on the quiet road.  
The breeze ruffles the tiny hairs on his back.  
I'd like to think my soul great enough  
to encompass a crippled spider  
but I see nothing between us,  
nothing. Half-hobbling  
he's made it alone this far,  
and at the approach of a curious fingertip  
he's gone.