

**Wilderness House Literary Review 4/4**

*Robert K. Johnson*

**ALMOST MORE THAN A CAT**

you waited at breakfast time  
to lick what was left on my plate;  
you kept me company  
while I worked at the computer,  
napped in my lap while I napped;

and finally became  
a human being when,  
stroke-crippled, in deep pain,  
and given a lethal injection,

you for one split second  
lifted your head erect,  
knowing that something strange  
was happening to you.