

1990

# Bent July Landscape

Catherine French

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## Bent July Landscape · *Catherine French*

A cicada's clumsy flight  
into the side of my face,  
its crude husk the source  
of that spilled, obsessive sound.  
It is beautiful as it leaves,  
flying down the hill  
away from sight.  
The stunted cherry and green plum  
root to the disturbed fields  
with thistle and cheat grass,  
their mute past given now to hardness,  
to the small fruits they make,  
like my own heavy limbs, flightless.  
They take their disfigurement quietly.  
A mockingbird breaks into a royal anne,  
flies off with a piece of white flesh.