

## The White Witch

by Walt Sutton

The White Witch watches  
as I lift my arms fully extended  
one lift, two lift three...  
then adds  
a round rubber weight  
in both hands my hands  
three pounds each  
if the white cardinal 3 is to be believed  
and I lift  
a burn  
first in one shoulder  
then the other  
then both  
shit!!!  
I want to quit  
but “burn is good”  
says the White Witch  
“three more?”  
a question that isn’t a question  
because the White Witch needs not question  
she commands  
softly  
commands  
“three  
two , one ... very good, Cosimo”  
(or whoever you are)  
the burn becomes ache then subsides,  
not cools  
which is what you would think an abating burn would do  
just subsides  
to a flaccid land of flappy limbs  
and sweat that drops  
to the black  
rubber tiled floor  
made such so that if I fall  
my nose won’t be broken  
if I faint from  
three two one  
but the witch knows I won’t faint  
she won’t allow it  
even though I am not as certain  
as she is  
right now.

