

JOSEPH SOMOZA

That Feeling of Leaving

as if one
might not be back.
Might not
be.
“Might”—
such an anxious concern—

unlike “is”
that is so much more
stabilizing,
rooted like trees
with the sky shining
through their branches

as it always has,
as “always” makes itself so
available
to the tongue,

as long as one is
“here,”
where sunlight
shellacs the picket fence
in the mornings
as the black cat meanders
over
to find a spot to lie down.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Somoza is the author of *Cityzen* (La Alameda Press 2001), *Shock of White Hair* (Sin Fronteras Press 2007), and *As Far As I Know* (Cinco Puntos Press 2015). His work has also appeared in *Red Coyote*, *Manzano Mountain Review*, *Loch Raven Review*, *Blue Lyra Review*, and *Cacti Fur*. A retired professor of English, he lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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