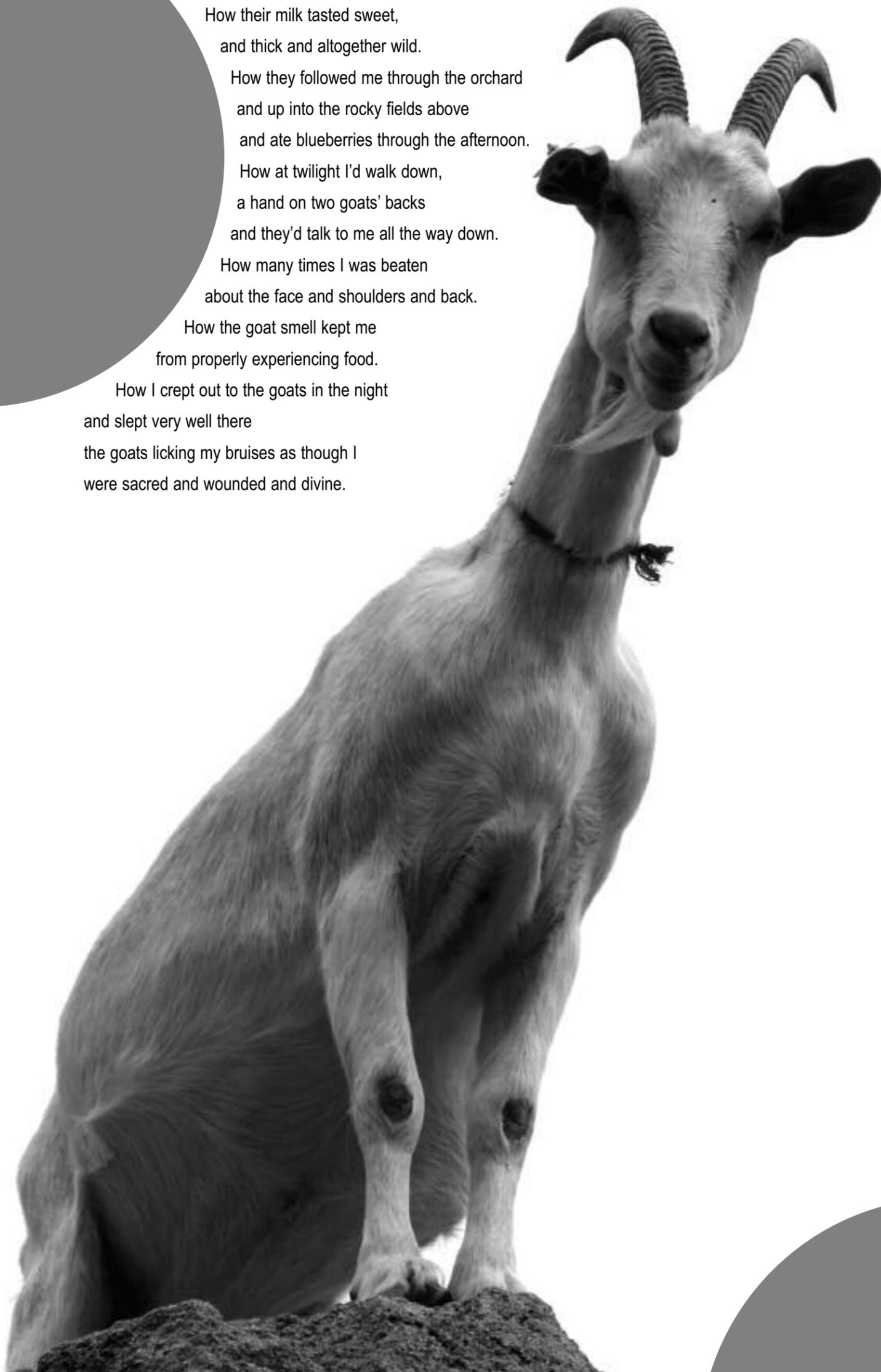


You can't imagine the goats  
who were my only friends as a child  
how they tore at my underwear,  
hitting their heads into my legs,  
playfully throwing me into the air.  
How their snores rattled the night.  
How their milk tasted sweet,  
and thick and altogether wild.  
How they followed me through the orchard  
and up into the rocky fields above  
and ate blueberries through the afternoon.  
How at twilight I'd walk down,  
a hand on two goats' backs  
and they'd talk to me all the way down.  
How many times I was beaten  
about the face and shoulders and back.  
How the goat smell kept me  
from properly experiencing food.  
How I crept out to the goats in the night  
and slept very well there  
the goats licking my bruises as though I  
were sacred and wounded and divine.

# Sphere



## Kate Gale



Kate Gale received her Ph.D. in American Literature at Claremont Graduate University. She currently serves as the President of PEN USA and the Managing Editor of Red Hen Press. She is the author of seven books and the editor of four anthologies. Her five collections of poetry include: *Blue Air*, *Where Crows and Men Collide*, *Selling the Hammock*, *Fishers of Men* and the most recent *Mating Season* (Tupelo). Her novel is *Lake of Fire*, and she also has a bilingual children's book, *African Sleeping Beauty*. Anthologies she has edited include *Anyone is Possible* (short fiction) and *Fake-City Syndrome* an anthology of essays that examine contemporary American culture. Ms. Gale has had poems and short stories published in literary magazines including *Arshile*, *Portland Review*, and *The Connecticut Review* and has read numerous venues including the Library of Congress, the University of London, Columbia University, Cody's in Berkeley and Book Soup in Los Angeles. She is the editor of *The Los Angeles Review*, and a reviewer for the American Library Association's academic literary review journal *Choice*. She was the first place winner of the 1998 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award. Her current projects include a novel, *Dead Chickens*, and *Rio de Sangre*, a libretto for an opera by Don Davis, which was conducted by Grant Gershon and presented on November 6, 2005 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.