

1968

The Touch of Moonlight

Keith Wilson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

Recommended Citation

Wilson, Keith. "The Touch of Moonlight." *New Mexico Quarterly* 38, 4 (1968). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol38/iss4/25>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Quarterly* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

KEITH WILSON

THE TOUCH OF MOONLIGHT

My male ancestors
 prowled this land
 like heavy mountain
 cats spewing their
 hatred & their life
 dropping spoor, flicking
 tail, a howl in their chests
 for the darkness, the chipped
 winds of the highroad valleys

—my dad was tailed by
 a puma all the way back
 from some girl's house. He
 forgets her name but he went
 back the next night, quick
 —shadowed as any cat, its
 cries like a woman's cries
 breaking through the shafts
 of moonlight

I walk the high thin
 fences, domesticated,
 dig my claws in rotten
 wood & feel my belly
 rock from side to side
 as the door opens, yellow
 street light! and out
 into a night crisp with
 exhaust smoke & pretence

I am a fatcat and walk
 the slender fences of a city
 remembering woods

the touch
 of moonlight on my eyes, the
 touch of moonlight