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The Carving

Holly Day

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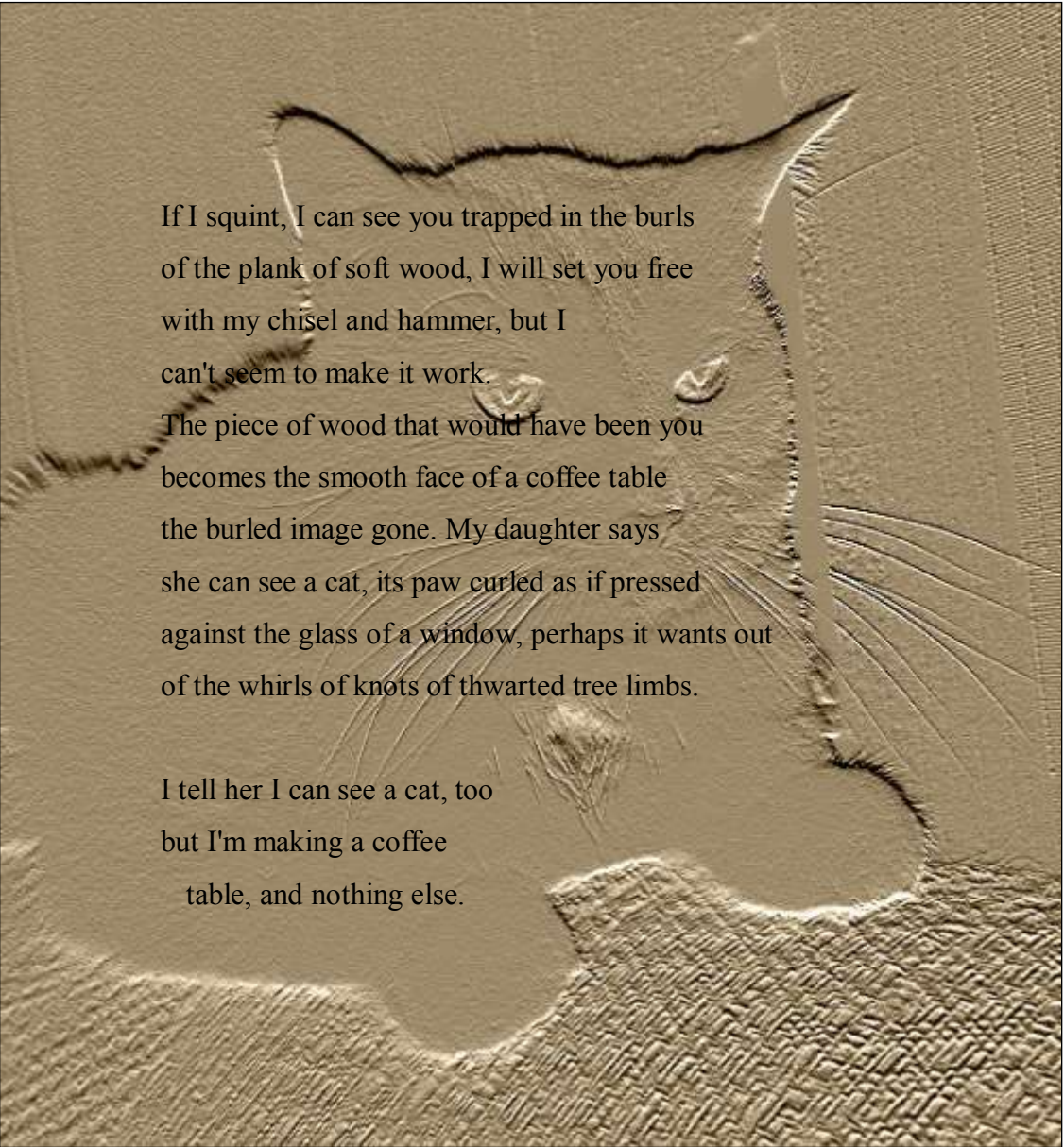
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THE CARVING

by

Holly Day



If I squint, I can see you trapped in the burls
of the plank of soft wood, I will set you free
with my chisel and hammer, but I
can't seem to make it work.

The piece of wood that would have been you
becomes the smooth face of a coffee table
the burl'd image gone. My daughter says
she can see a cat, its paw curled as if pressed
against the glass of a window, perhaps it wants out
of the whirls of knots of thwarted tree limbs.

I tell her I can see a cat, too
but I'm making a coffee
table, and nothing else.