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Self-portrait: September

Sandy Longhorn

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Self-portrait: September

by Sandy Longhorn

The girl on the Shetland pony tosses
her head, shaking hay and bits of chaff
out of her matted hair while the pony strains
against the bridle, wanting to get the bit
in its teeth and lower its head
to what remains on the mown field.
The pony has been known to founder,
to gorge itself on summer's last lush
until its stomach bloats and its legs grow thick
as silos standing staunch against the sky.
The girl's hands on the reins hold back
that need, the fringe on her jacket
mingling with the pony's mane.

