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## Two Poems

Dan MacIsaac

*Poet*

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## Cheetah in 60 Seconds

Lithe-legged and rudder-tailed,  
the chaser twists and lunges  
for a panicked springbok bolting  
over the bronzed veldt.

It rises to the blurred  
cross-beat of hooves  
and hide streaked over  
flanks sizzling like cymbals.

Jaws snap at the antelope's  
pallid throat and lock fast  
to the drumskin of gullet,  
stifling that swift hot pulse.

## Timing the Cheetah

Ever a long shot, the speedster accelerates  
into the most remote rift of Africa,  
outcast from a ravaged range,  
revving into the worst scorched space,  
racing against a dire clock,  
hitting the Mach speed of mass extinction.  
Pitiless that ticking face of the sun running  
down.

**DAN MACISAAC** is a trial lawyer and served ten years as a director on the board of the Environmental Law Centre at UVIC. In 2017, Brick Books published his debut collection of poetry, *Cries from the Ark*. His poetry has appeared in many journals, including *The Malahat Review*, *Cirque*, and *Agenda*. His website is [danmacisaac.com](http://danmacisaac.com).