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## Cadillacs N' Poetry

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**Cadillacs N' Poetry**

*Glen K. Waters II, University of Iowa*

What is a Cadillac to me?  
To rip pages out of my  
Greenbook and lose my  
son downtown, slum blight, a  
act in 49<sup>1</sup>, whiter flight,  
and a new brown house<sup>2</sup>.

What is a Cadillac to me?  
More than fresh leather seats  
mirroring a black interior dash  
board finish, our adultery dangling,  
hanging, rotting cold with Black ice  
Odor: slippage under rear reflections.

What is a Cadillac to me?  
A sleek metallic body  
with motorized parts inter-

changeable at the expense of  
owning, pricey, American, iconic.  
If it had eyes, it would watch  
its future self-evolve.

To me, my sleek body, is  
based on production, hands  
crafted with parts un-  
changeable, at the expense of  
knowing, pricey, American, ironic.  
If I did not have eyes, I would  
Still feel my future self die.

<sup>1</sup>In 1949, the Federal Housing Act of 1949 created new homes for African Americans and other minority groups in the mid 1900s (especially in the South).

<sup>2</sup>The “New Brown House” represents the importance of the Housing Act of 1949 for minority groups.