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Cat Haiku

Dee Ito

Marshall Arisman
School of Visual Arts

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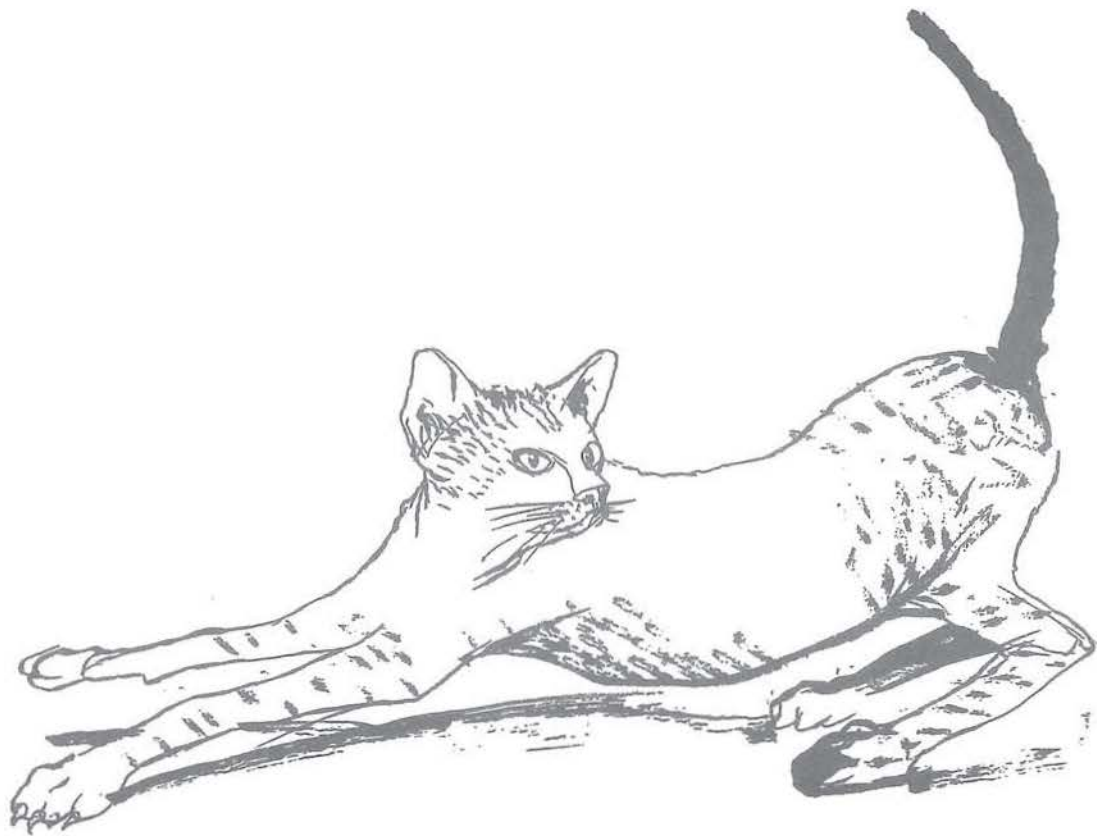
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WHISKERS LIKE WHISPERS
LIGHTLY TOUCH OUR CONSCIOUSNESS
BARELY KNOWN BUT THERE



Cat Haiku

Dee Ito

New York, USA

Marshall Arisman

School of Visual Arts
New York, USA

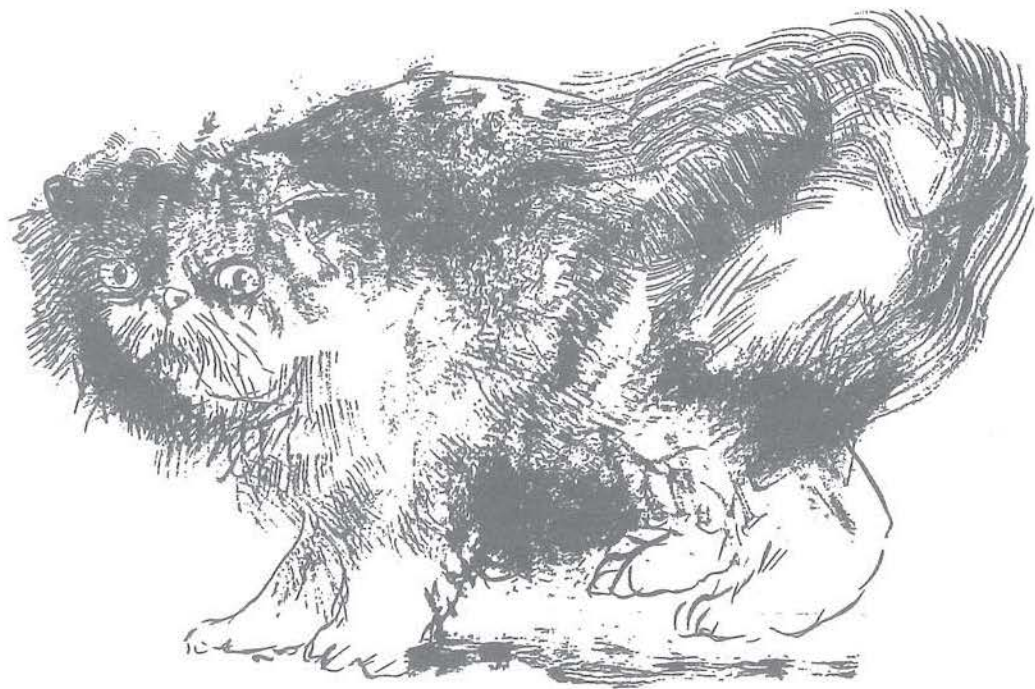
PEOPLE WHO are passionate about cats see the world differently from other people. Living with them day by day, we become more tolerant of quixotic behavior, eccentricity, and weirdness in our friends and families. Cats stir within us an insubordinate spirit, and we learn to survive calmly while all around us is chaos. Our cats, by being who *they* are, give us courage to be who *we* are. We recognize that they exist in our lives as lessons, if only we can discover what we are supposed to be learning. Sometimes it's very difficult.

The haiku—an old and revered Japanese poetry form—often reflected Zen Buddhist illumination. In these times, illumination is difficult to come by. Concentrating on the seasons was a traditional meditation, but using cats as the subject for haiku is equally revealing for us. If we stretch the criteria for haiku formulated by Bashō—one of Japan's most esteemed poets—cats serve quite nicely to enlighten us. Bashō says a haiku should have “extreme compression of thought, casualness of expression, and the very subtle suggestion of the Karmic law of cause and result.”

We have used the strict form, seventeen syllables in three lines—five in the first, seven in the second, and five more in the third.



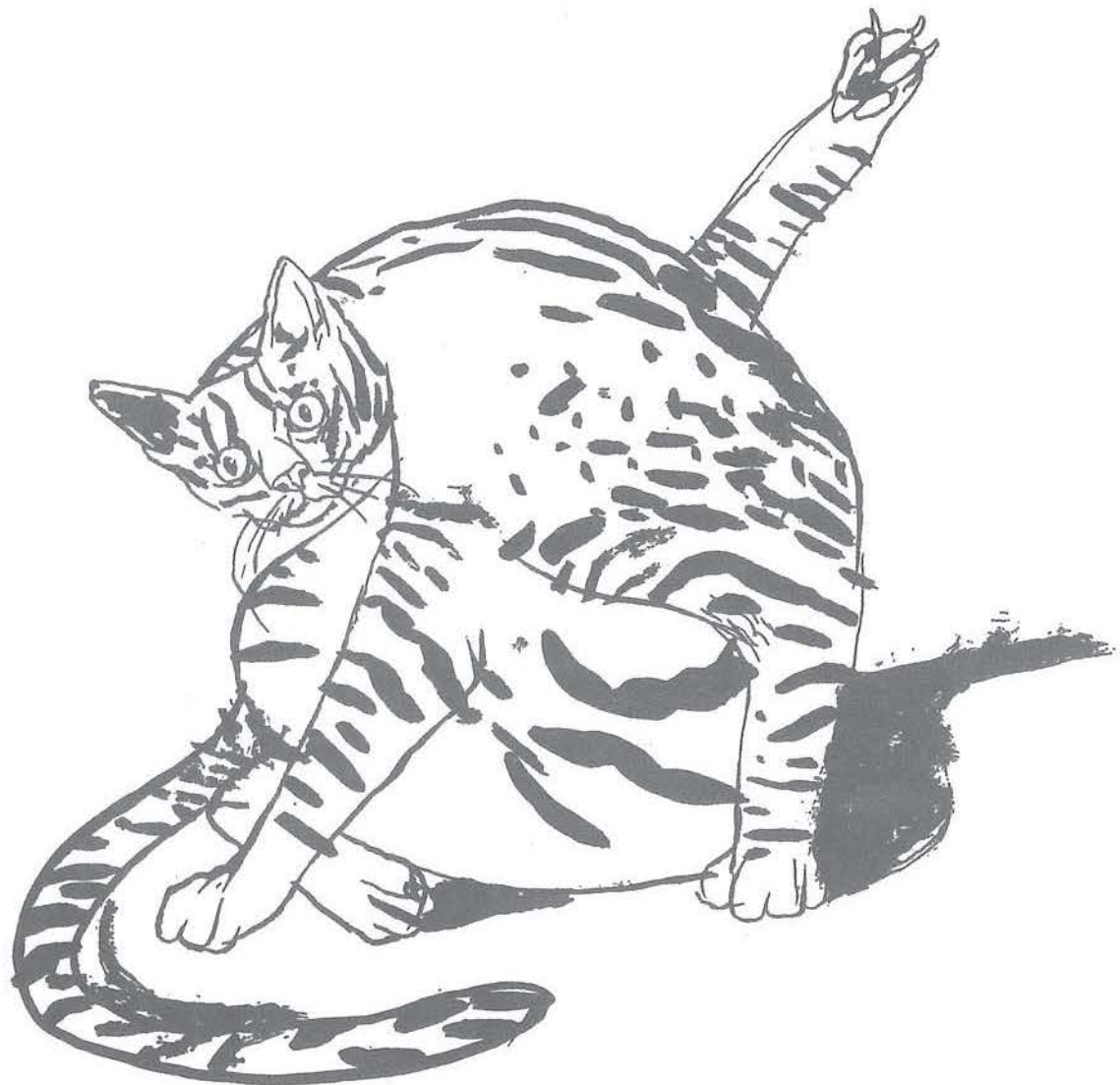
TALKING TO SOME CATS
MAKES ONE FEEL LESS NEUROTIC
UNTIL THEY TALK BACK



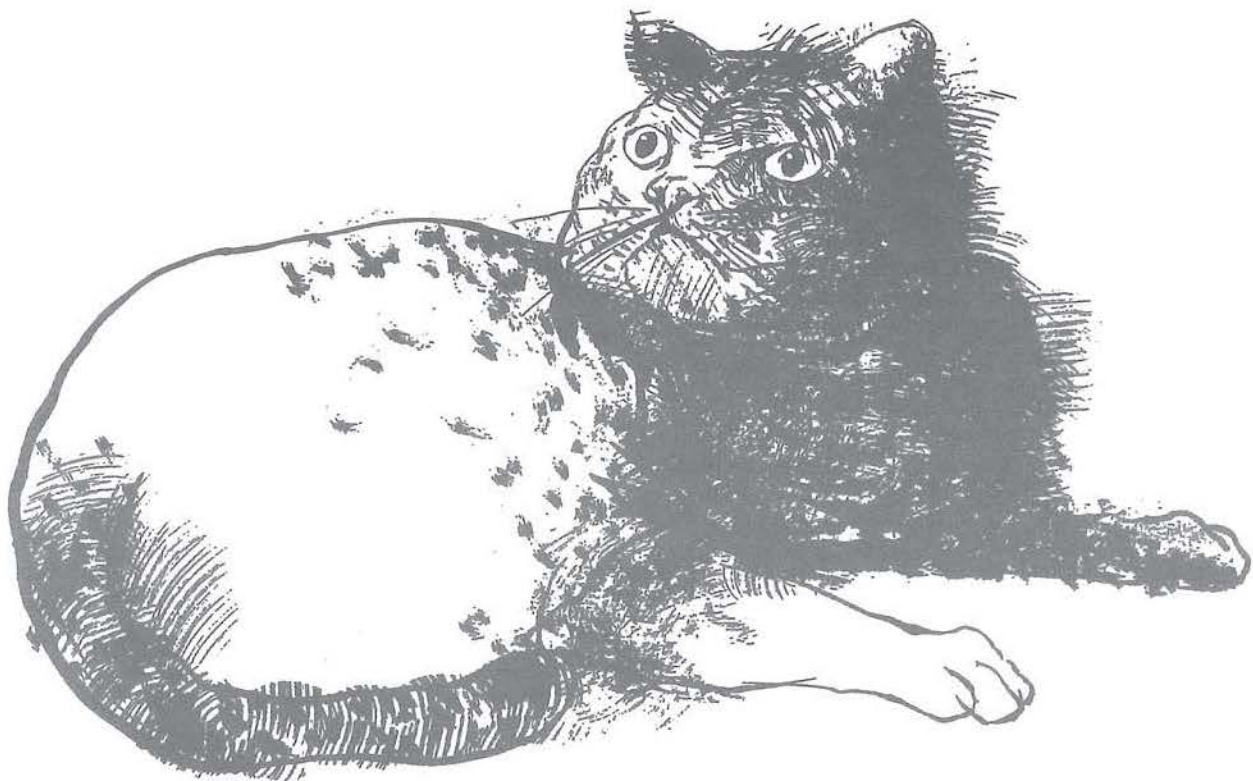
IN ZEN THE MOMENT
IS TIMELESS AND ALL THERE IS
CATS SEIZE IT AND PLAY



CHIC SIMPLICITY
CHARACTERIZES MOST CATS
WE ARE OVERDRESSED



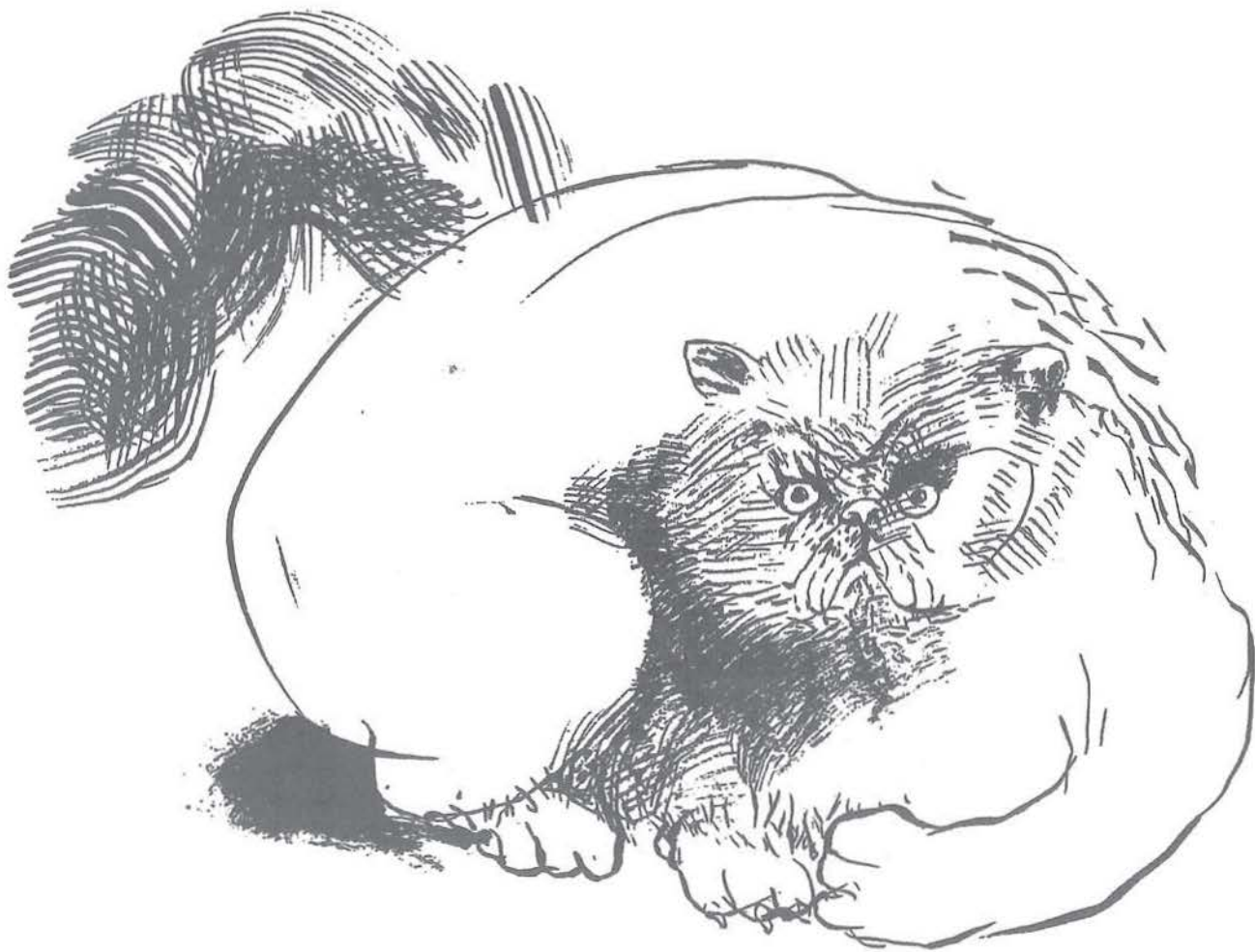
IT'S THE QUIET CAT
WHO SITS ALONE ON THE SHELF
KNOWS YOU BEST OF ALL



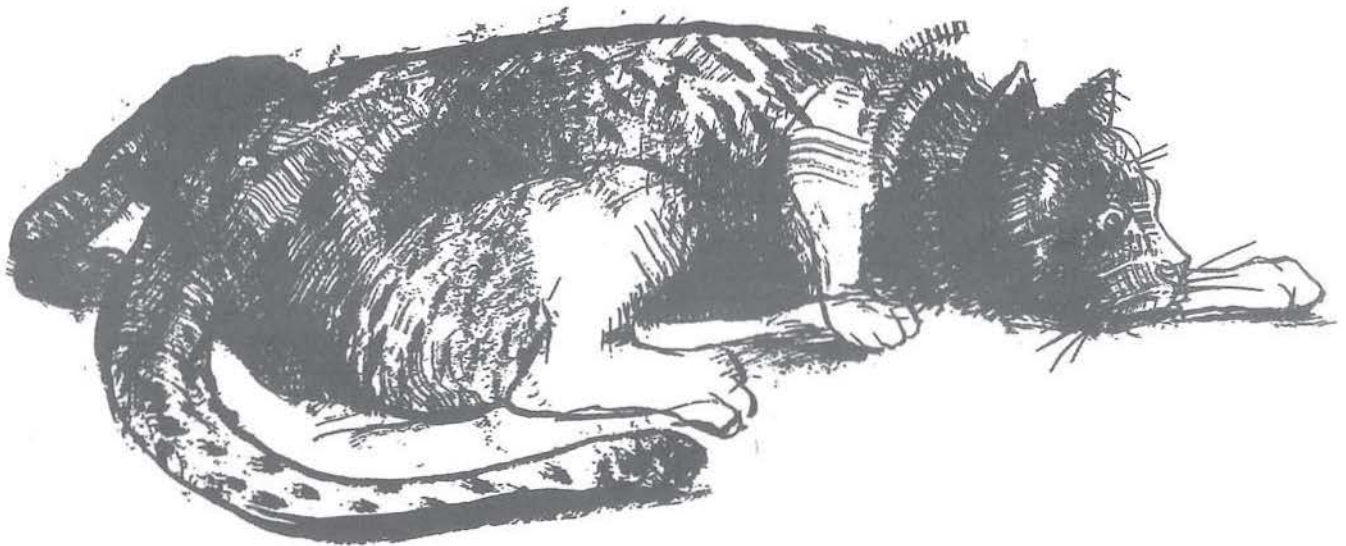
SOME CATS DRAW AND PAINT
MINE HAVE MORE HUMBLE TALENTS
THEY CONTEMPLATE LIFE



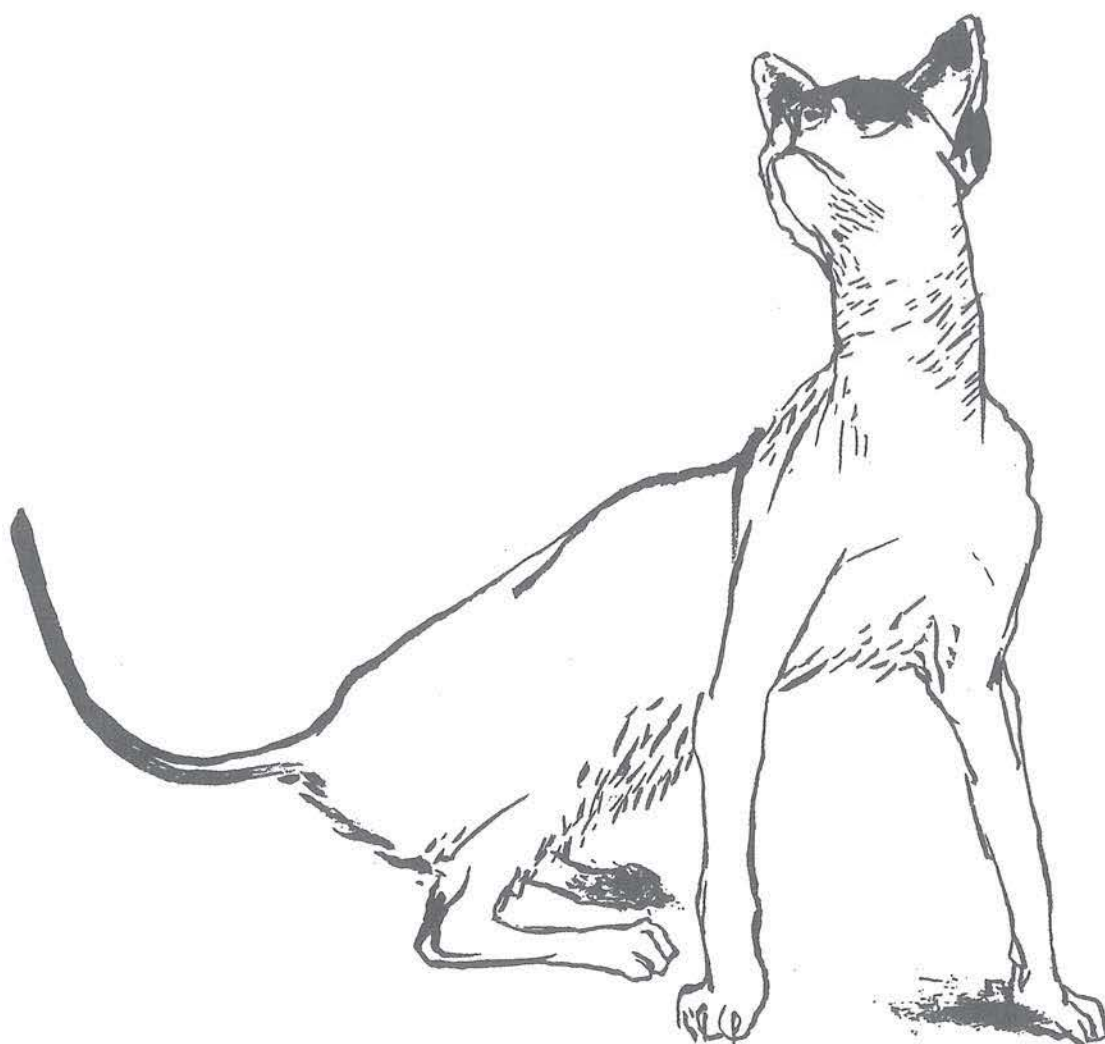
TELLING YOUR CAT LIES
ABOUT REALITY IS
THE WAY TO STAY SANE



IN MEDIEVAL DAYS
CATS WERE EVIL INCARNATE
BAD TIMES LAUNCH BAD THOUGHTS



HER LONG, LITHE BODY
STRETCHES OUT EAGERLY TO YIELD
CONTROL FOR BEAUTY



INVENTED BY CATS
THE NAP IS A REFRESHMENT
FOR BODY AND SOUL

