She Took Off Her Wings And Shoes

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Published by Utah State University Press

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I arrive rain soaked to talk about subletting for the summer. 
The two women who live here are getting ready for a ball.
One woman bends over in her slip as she irons her white lace gown, 
her cheeks reddening from the steam.
The other woman arranges her hair at a mirror. 
She is cocooned in sky-blue silk.
A friend arrives wearing a ruby gown, 
and we all exclaim over the dress. One woman’s face begins to fall.
For a summer I will have a fireplace, a dishwasher, a swimming pool. 
I barely use them. I find myself pulling the draperies apart 
and standing on the terrace as daily thunderstorms pass.
With the first rainfall, steam rises from the burning pavement.
My gown is made from the same meeting of cold and heat. 
My gown spills like rain and is windswept, 
The color of the leaves turned inside out before the sky cracks open.