She Took Off Her Wings And Shoes

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I steal orchids during the night, 
bending to loosen them from their sisters. 
They are rustling, bleeding a little 
into my cool palms, 
a milk-white blood. 
In the house they are burning the memory 
of another gathering you closer 
with poppy and hibiscus. 
The orchids' scent reaches into my sleep 
like the wrought-iron tongues of two dragons 
flanking the suburban gate. 
I choose the black vase decorated with dragons 
to surround me like a fiercely carved night.