She Took Off Her Wings And Shoes

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THE BAT

You arrive again with your leathery wings
stretched over the first autumn winds,
to sleep in my skirts.
You watch me out of the corner of your eye
and reel toward me,
brushing my face without a sound.
You fly around the room
with your scalloped wings,
then cling to the wall upside down.
I let you sleep there and fly out the window
toward high-pitched sounds
like tiny shrieks.
You wait for me,
folded together, a small shield
against lamplight and intimacy.