She Took Off Her Wings And Shoes

Bishop, Suzette

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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.