Where She Always Was

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Finally she lay with the sheets turned all the way back; 
her wig gone, fever down; basking 
in breezeless sleep 
while he came every hour to turn her, to place his fingers 
over the throat of her wrist as he’d been shown, 
and listen hard 
for the black wing-swish of her pulse: 
a moth not flying, clinging 
to light.