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The Visit

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THE VISIT

She watches me carry vegetables from the garden
pictures life as the embrace we plan on the stairs.

In the morning the cat dreams birds
tries to leap off her bed through a closed window.
Awake now he shakes himself—
the birds are real.

The photographs she takes of our quiet house
reveal figures fleeing the light of her flash,
the white knees of one, long coat of another,
the almost familiar face, hands on the coffee table.

She worries that all was not as it seemed;
her letters hint at the unnamed presence.
Finally she writes: "I have not, as I thought,
lived alone all these years."