

Winter 1959

## During Darkness

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KITTY SCHLEUDER

## DURING DARKNESS

The water, like black velvet draped in ripples  
and a million puppies lapping at the shore  
reflect the sky, an onyx curvature  
set with stars like diamonds and the moon  
    like a luminous pearl.

The frogs croak like one trillion tubas hopping  
and the clash of fingernails and taffeta  
as the owl, fear of rodents, sails somber space.  
Ejaculated rhythms come from the legs of crickets,  
the skinny ugly bookies, as they cut careless capers.

Bats' wings like tiny flattened tents joined one to another  
rise with rueful radar,  
senseless to the propelled jade and turquoise fish  
that slither in the oxidized ornaments of time and space.