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## AT TWILIGHT I WATCH THE WOODCOCKS' WILD DANCE

*Missy-Marie Montgomery*

I too have fallen all the way through the sky and still  
this love followed the faint streak of light left  
and found me.

More than once I could feel God's hand on my forehead.

Think of the ways the earth shows us  
to talk with its animals. The way the mind must naturally  
still itself, leave words out of it.

We know to lower our bodies for fear to lessen,  
when to outstretch our hands and murmur.

The woodcock I have been holding  
from its crash into my window  
is quiet. Its long strand of tongue accepts  
a few drops of water from a spoon.

The whole time I've held it  
there's been nothing like fear between us. A blessing  
with a time limit. I could feel its sand sift through us  
as we rocked.

I must learn to find my way again  
in the world of people.

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Missy-Marie Montgomery is a Humanities professor at Springfield College, in Springfield, Massachusetts, where she teaches environmental writing, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition. Her poetry, fiction, and essays have appeared in *Poetry International*, *Lyric Poetry Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Rattle*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Pearl*, and *Vocabula*, among others. Her manuscript, *Passion Without Object*, was a finalist for the Kore first book award, and the Crab Orchard Review first book award. Her chapbook, *The Blue Gate*, was published in 2009 by Pudding House Press. Another chapbook, *Knowledge of the Body*, is being published by Finishing Line Press in 2010.