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Untitled

James G. Robinson

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BLESS ME...

Susan Blick
Featured Poet

From my baby brother when I was five
I took a lop-eared nubby bunny
His constant companion had only one eye
an ear with an end worn to threads
and a tail that was mashed too flat
It even smelled like him
I am a thief of security

One time I borrowed my best friend's sweater
I never gave it back
It was soft and pink and when she wore it
her cheeks were always flush,
her laughter rang like a bell
and her hair glimmered in the sun
I am a thief of beauty

At seventeen I met a boy
and when shyness sailed off the edge of the earth
I explored all of him
Between the tip of his tongue and the tips of his toes
I found the bright new land
He ended and began
I am a thief of innocence

From my neighbor's garden
on a lazy day
I plucked two big bell peppers
I sat on the stoop and ate them raw
to see what tended tasted like
I left their seeds scattered on the cement
I am a thief of patience

I was twenty-five when my grandfather died
and how delighted I would have been
to dance upon his grave
but in her grief I left my mother alone
although funerals are for the living
I didn't go home
I am a thief of solace

When I finally met a man
who wore his heart out on his sleeve
I was so enticed
I know he would have given it to me
but I took it - it was easy
I have everything
I am a thief of love

Then by chance I got a note
Folded it held a hand
I read it
over and over again
and stated I no longer waited
instead I wrote this
I am a thief of inspiration

...HAIL MARY



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