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Emma Darwin at Fifteen

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Emma Darwin at Fifteen

She followed the wives' tale exactly.
To see her true love, she set the table
with bitter beer, brown bread,
waiting for midnight, when his face
would appear in the curve of a spoon.
Later, how silly she felt when all
she saw was her own reflection,
so she ate, then swept up the crumbs.
But that night, she couldn't stop
from twitching at every shadow,
the shapes on her bedroom window—
perhaps a jaw line, a dark mouth.
And she did dream of a man.
Green locusts slept on his wrists.
His breath was the beekeeper's smoke.