The Other

She sits in quiet shadows
The only light a glow
Creeping unasked through
Windows left bare
Across the room
And then a flame and
An ember shining closer
to her eyes than I have come
Who has seen her left bare
As windows stand unmasked
Before the dawn
Her face throws its outline
Toward the light
Seeking an escape it cannot
Find here
We do not speak, have
Never managed words
An acrid breath of walls
Thrown up between us
I remember everything she’s lost
And hold it here
Where my heart is left bare