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DECODING 101

It's late. Elongated shadows crosshatch
my back yard, extending beyond definitions:
Black on black cryptograms I can't read.

My neighbor's silhouette hunches over her desk
lurches abruptly, holding my eye to her window.
She rises unsteadily. Her hand goes
to her face, lingers. A single legible line
among the hieroglyphics of a shaded frame.

I never liked her by day.
In this moment I recognize a lamed
and lonely sister.
One deciphered blip on night's graph.

Tomorrow she will have a new neighbor.
Tomorrow I will introduce myself.

--Glenna Holloway