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DECODING 101

It's late. Elongated shadows crosshatch
my back yard. Black on black
cryptograms I can't read.

My neighbor's window draws my eye,
her silhouette hunches over her desk,
lurches abruptly. She rises slowly.
Her hand flies to her face, lingers:
A single bent but legible line
among hieroglyphics in a shaded frame.

I never liked her by day:
Origins, isms, idioms posing large,
differences sharply lit. 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 the self
just met
to her I've never known.

--Glenna Holloway