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Visitation

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Visitation

by Nina S. Corwin

Sometimes they slip by
in the guise of rodents,

or sneaking through airwaves
and telephone lines.

she tapes the windows, plugs faucets
and drains with wads of gum, builds towers

of empty soup cans that will topple
with a warning clatter if disrupted

in the dark. At night she pushes
the dresser in front of the door.

Across the room, the TV screen
she smashed last month

will no longer broadcast
their subliminal messages.

like an old man's mouth,
it gapes back at her.

Sometimes she hears them whispering,
rearranging the clothes that hang in the closet,

shuffling her shoes just to taunt her.
she suspects them of urinating in her milk,

injecting poison into the bottles of pills
that gather in the medicine cabinet.

She knows it sounds crazy
so she doesn't try to explain,

but she suspects it's because they are jealous.
Or because she knows their secrets.

Sometimes, she think it's her womb they want:
Because she might give birth to the chosen.

