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## What If Emily

Thomas David Lisk

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# What If Emily

by Thomas David Lisk

had had to work, to get up at 6:30  
every morning, make her own breakfast,  
and her father's and brother's and sister's  
breakfasts, and wash the dishes in time to be  
at the office by 8:00, where she slaved all day  
at a job she often convinced herself she enjoyed,  
though maybe all she enjoyed was the feeling of virtue,  
of having accepted the responsibilities of a family,  
which kept her from a gloomy leisure  
in which she might, almost frantic with despair, endite,  
"There's a certain Slant of light . . . ."

