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Slippers

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Slippers

by Diane Gage

Useless solo, they mate as geese do,
or wolves, as they say: for life.
Yawning welcome to commence shuffling
they fluff up toes, soles and heels
with little pillows of warm air,
pat and soften the way
from sleep to work and back.
More independent than socks
less serious than shoes
they tread the short interior paths
over and over
nursing the sick
gathering with the family
on holiday mornings
dashing out for newspaper or milk.
At night they dream of opera premieres
and glacier climbing expeditions
or they prowl forests as giant cats
until they wake to their job:
whispering hearth-news
to extremities.

