Lampyridae

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Lampyridae

By Donna L. Emerson

As I walk down the June steps of the farmhouse, fireflies flash close to my face.

Droplets of light fill the night sky, small lights coming toward me, bobbling, dipping down, as far as I can see.

We used to catch them in jars, sit them next to our beds until their lights went out or pound nail holes in the jar tops so they’d stay with us ‘til morning.

Mating time, the males flashing, the females close to the ground on the grass blades, the bushes. If the lights grow closer together, all is well for the next generation.

One large lightning bug tries to come into our bedroom window, knocking on the pane. The room fills full with his clicking sound and light, magnified by window glass. He lightens our faces like a candle, softening bedposts and our startled eyes.