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From a Window: *D'une Fenêtre*

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From a Window

Once, through the cloudless glass, you noticed
a row of stars drifting west,

and reported that illusion to me
how they seemed to unhinge themselves

from their archaic stations
and travel against all reason.

You thought your eyesight was giving way at last.
You thought, for a minute, it was the invasion

we've all been waiting for.
You passed one hand over your eyes.

And when you glanced back you saw
the stars fixed finally in their hemisphere,

offering their variable light,
and a single satellite, that had seemed

the only quiet, stationary star,
marking its way in the everlasting sky.

Ann Townsend

D'une Fenêtre

Une fois, à travers la vitre transparente, tu aperçus
une chaîne d'étoiles voguant vers l'ouest,

et me racontas cette illusion
comment elles semblaient se démonter

de leurs postes archaïques
et voyager contre toute raison.

Tu crus que ta vue t'abandonnait enfin.
Tu crus, l'espace d'une seconde, que c'était l'invasion

que nous attendions tous.
D'une main tu couvris les yeux.

Et quand tu les découvris tu vis
les étoiles fixées sans fin dans leur hémisphère,

offrant leur lumière inconstante,
et un seul satellite, paru momentanément

l'unique étoile immuable et tranquille,
traçant sa voie dans le ciel éternel.

Translated by Judy Cochran