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## Penelope Waits for Odysseu

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She thinks it is something with the water, and she  
is right. She is standing in the kitchen,  
over the sink, and her hands are shaking.  
And then she turns the water off, and goes to sleep.  
She wakes up and it is like nothing has happened. Except

it has. In her dreams she is running along the bank of a river,  
and there are bodies wrapped in plastic and none of them are him;  
none of them are the one she is looking for.

Sometimes it is easier for love to vanish into the night  
than it is to stand for one more moment  
in the same kitchen in the same house. She wants a better story,  
wants him to stay and hold her hand while standing in line at the store.  
She wants love to dry the dishes as she washes them.