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## European Affairs

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Sitting, amongst fur coats, and patent leather purses,  
she quietly sobs, curled into the corner.  
The wife had found the crumpled receipt  
in the jacket he sent home to Houston.

The Drake Hotel, Luxembourg  
1 man's shirt, heavy starch  
1 woman's skirt, delicate press  
Room number fifty-four.

He had asked her in a letter,  
to patch its hole with her magic hands.  
She clutches her husband's jacket,  
afraid to let the only comfort go.

The wife's mascara leaves  
black puddles under sleep deprived eyes.  
Hours later she remains in the closet,  
lulled by the rhythm of her own crying,

She is home alone, her husband still overseas,  
Waking from yet another night with his mistress.  
He is hurrying her naked body into the shower,  
making sure the water is running as his fingers dial home.

--Ginna Fuselier '03