Insomnia

Ruth Bavetta

King of unrest, prince
of probability,

it slithers down the stairs
from its hazy aerie, sifts

through the sediment of air
to release the specter of disquiet.

It is the connoisseur feasting
on slumber, the shoplifter of bones,

the one who drags the body
up the steps of dawn

when night exhales
and falls at last into the sea.

Ruth Bavetta's poems have appeared in *Rattle, North American Review, Nimrod, Rhino, Tar River Review, Slant, Atlanta Review* and many others, and are included in several anthologies. Her fifth book, *What's Left Over*, won the FutureCycle Book Prize in 2022. She loves the light of November afternoons, the music of Stravinsky, the smell of the ocean. She hates pretense, fundamentalism and sauerkraut.

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