

GYPSY ROSE

Robyn Schiff

Losing one thing after another, Gypsy Rose
disappears as the scene changes unnaked into the universe.
Left to revel in his disappointment,
the theater critic told her
I love you, I have a glove
you threw to the audience and hold it dear to me.
I have a strand of hair that was on that glove,
the color of this hair here (he touched her then)
and asked her for her other glove.

Sadder but pleased with herself
Gypsy Rose removed the other glove
from her evening purse. First, she said,
shall I drop it beside me and you pretend
to have found it, and quite to my surprise, return
it and we shall fall in love for ever after?
They rehearsed the scene and then performed it.

He hoped she would play it less eagerly, but after
saying so she did what she was told and gave less energy
to the scene in general and concentrated on the glove itself.

He said think of something that hurt you once, even if it was me,
and use that energy to drive the scene. It will be the *impetus*.
I have lost many things and the glove was one of them, she said to herself.

Does this belong to you, young lady. Why yes it does
how kind of you to return it. You have restored my hope
and I shall not begrudge one small kiss in return,
not on the lips, but here, where my glove would be.