

DEBORAH BOGEN

*Cantilevered Bedtime Story*

Wallpaper farm, the girl  
with the ducks, the friendly  
farmer's father-work,  
the moony mother's queer  
stare and the bee-hivey  
haystacks, the pitchforks,  
the curly cows by the pond.

Elsewhere, a window frames  
green light. Elsewhere,  
the dark-hall-doorway,  
the long walk to the kitchen's  
grown-up talking. The Singer  
in the corner, electric  
and shiny and under the bed,  
and under the bed...

O happy wallpaper-girl,  
the cow wants to give you  
her milk. The father's pitchfork  
is solid and serene, but what  
can be done for the woman  
in the fluttering apron  
whose gaze is seaward, and  
elsewhere, and gone?