

1981

## Secondhand Coat

Ruth Stone

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## Secondhand Coat · *Ruth Stone*

I feel  
in her pockets; she wore nice cotton gloves,  
kept a handkerchief box, washed her undies,  
ate at the Holiday Inn, had a basement freezer,  
belonged to a bridge club.  
I think when I wake in the morning  
that I have turned into her.  
She hangs in the hall downstairs,  
a shadow with pulled threads.  
I slip her over my arms, skin of a matron.  
Where are you? I say to myself, to the orphaned body,  
and her coat says,  
Get your purse, have you got your keys?