

2007

# Habit

Mary-Sherman Willis

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Willis, Mary-Sherman. "Habit." *The Iowa Review* 37.1 (2007): 75-75. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6565>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

## *Habit*

Habit lives at home, at habitation's door.  
(Even travel can't break it.) When he was gone,  
the air still silk with his perfume, his voice a ribbon  
tangled in her head, she only wanted more.  
Having (rooted in giving) meant taking,  
and she took disguises: nun veiled in lies,  
hunter in her guise...  
even she forgot when she was faking.

By then her settled tendency acquired, her fluid charm  
in service to her pain—how could we know?  
There were those pockmarks in the crook of her arm,  
but seeing doesn't always make it so.  
He would return and call, to our chagrin.  
We'd bar the door, but habit let him in.