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NAMING YOUR PET

Matthew Byrne

I was supposed to be composing poetry
but was trolling the internet instead.
I learned that many people had been
accomplishing many things I had not.
I discovered in particular a certain
rival of mine had won a prestigious
award. I was consumed by the injustice
of it all, so I opened a window, and in
flew a bat. It fluttered up and down
my bookshelves, and I hit the deck.
When I mustered the courage to look up
I found it clinging to my monitor,
where it convulsed rabidly for a spell,
then became still. Truth be told
it looked sort of cute up there, really
just a winged mouse with the unfortunate
addition of fangs. So I did what any
red-blooded American would have done
and typed up a poem about the merits
of magnanimity when confronted with
the news that a bombastic academic
won an award decided by one of similar
disregard for all that is warm, funny,
and understandable. It was with this
sense of amnesty that I cupped the bat
in my hands and named it Proust.