

INVASION

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Word received: invasion imminent—
Stock the larder—stash best clothes
Buy emergency supplies
From canned goods, meats and pies
To bandages and liniment.
Hide your meds, objets d'art
An odd time to think of those,
But occupancy's not forever
Therefore you must endeavor
To keep these safe 'til they depart.
Yield to violence of their bands
The quiet life you have loved
You'll seek these special treasures,
Plus all accustomed pleasures,
When they retreat to their own lands.
Screeching brakes attest arrival
Halls invaded, stomping above
Accoutrements claiming space
Dropped like bombs throughout the place,
But you're a champ at survival.
"Get back," your daughter grins,
Second officer of this crew
The youngest is first with hugs,
Then stampede the older lugs
Another holiday begins!
And when finally they depart
In a day, a week or two
Return to routines with relief
But also feelings of grief:
They absconded with your heart!