Why Do Birds Fly Into Windows?

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Recommended Citation
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(Suddenly he felt not fear but a terrible anxiety...Kim Scott, *That Deadman Dance*)

I wince at that thudding sound and find, sure enough, another fistful of feathers beneath my window sill. You wonder whether they're deceived by reflection or fly blind.

Once our love notes were like flight of birds, joyous on the wing to flutter out and in among tree limbs, down to alight within our garden arrayed with plumed words. But that soft still warm body in my hand was dying even as I raised it up, the neck askew; on its beak a blood drop. I saw it had migrated from another land, winged all this way as in flight of love.

But my glass prison denied that peace dove.

*Why Do Birds Fly Into Windows* received a Highly Commended award in the 2011 Tom Collins Poetry Prize.