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## The Horse in the Bathtub

Stuart Moses

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STUART MOSES

*THE HORSE IN THE BATHTUB*

One foot, broad, ungulate, and dark,  
Projected from the edge, wigwagging gracefully  
In tiny circles, down from which a stream  
Of water drained in drips and dropped  
Into a puddle there  
Upon the floor.

"Get out," I said, "You've soaked  
There much too long already, and you'll surely  
Wake the neighbors with the awful noise and bangs  
You make when you get out of there, just like  
You always do when you get out,  
And I won't have it, now,  
I simply won't."

But he said not a word, and sat  
Serenely there, and mocked me with an awful leer  
He uses when he wants to mock me, make  
Me feel ridiculous and foolish,  
Make me wake the neighbors  
With my shouting.

And so I went to bed, and felt  
Just miserable, for after all I might offend  
Him, talking to him in that angry tone  
Of voice, but he won't care, I'm sure,  
And soon he'll get out, dry  
Himself, and come to bed,  
And then we'll talk.