

Karl Plank

WEDDING NIGHT

And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! (Gen 29:25)

The night winked on the side
with a sly eye.

There was a wedding and then, after.

(It is the plot of our stories in which
we all come to rest).

The trickery was cruel
(though you are no stranger to it).
So you blindly bedded her sister instead—
Must it matter?

We can tell your tale in two ways.
In one version, you are the dupe
whose hunger was played for the fool
(which ought to sound familiar).
This is not unjust, but unkind,
for your heart knows
no other master.

The second is the story of how you gave
your love in the night (how you gave
your love regardless) and how in the morning
you were surprised by the face you saw,

just as we all are.