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## Night Visitors

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## Night visitors

Too young to know fear,  
sibling raccoons toddle  
into my yard about dusk.  
I had trapped their mother  
a previous night  
and carried her away—  
from my gliding patio doors  
and sturdy garbage cans.

The babies scuttle  
across the lawn  
and climb atop the cage,  
nestling there,  
one over the other.  
With surprised black eyes  
they watch me approach—  
close enough to touch.  
But I am afraid,  
bitten by a sharp regret.

—Nancy Compton Williams