

You may sew  
straw dolls that look like me.  
Sell them. Buy them.  
You like to buy everything.  
In August, you'll think  
you're blessed with amulets.  
Come December, a chill  
will take hold of your heart.

#### Fifth Tail

The emperor's consort  
disappeared over a ridge  
the way ladies will.  
Lucky, sunset returned her  
although she was changed—  
panting beneath him  
so long he grew ill  
and became a silver  
of moon, his money spent,  
face wasted with worry,  
the seeds inside him dried.

#### Fourth Tail

You believe a cat  
follows you home.  
When you sleep,  
you feel its silky tail  
and hot-blooded breath.  
Your cat wants some milk.  
Your cat wants a fresh fish.  
No! A fox is sitting on your chest.  
She's spreading her furred legs.  
You are inside her.  
There's nothing  
to do but ride it out.

#### Third Tail

Fox trickery?  
You mean grapes  
and what appears  
to be a pool of water?  
The way the wind calls  
your wife's name?  
What of your gods?  
You think they don't  
litter the sky with riddles?

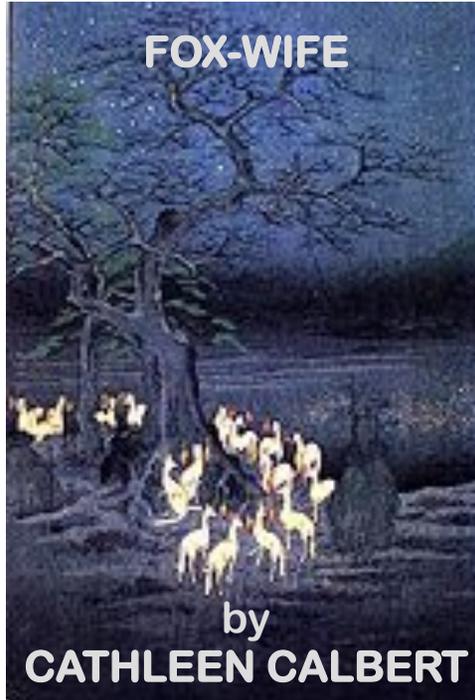
#### Second Tail

*Please recycle to a friend.*

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**Origami Poem Project**  
**FOX-WIFE**  
by **CATHLEEN CALBERT**  
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from

*Sleeping with a Famous Poet*

Cathleen Calbert

#### First Tail

One look at me,  
he leaves his bride,  
he leaves his wedding.  
He only wants to play  
run fox run  
in the meadow,  
roll over my belly,  
and gaze into my silver eyes.  
I smell of wildflowers  
and something else.  
He brings me buttercups.  
He brings me bars of gold.  
He even tries his hand  
at poetry. When I leave,  
the scent of fox stays.  
It shatters the man's heart.