

Video game bird
Ormila Vijaykrishnan Prahlad

every morning
as the skies warm up
he arrives
like a feathery alarm clock
tweeting sunrise
at our bedroom window
peeping through
tiny head pressed against the panes
pince nez poised on his beak.

I'm yet to download the bird call app
and identify him through his song
to me he looks professorial
with his painted specs
and slick black suit
you say you've already named him—
the video game bird
and *pew-pew-pew* he goes on cue
like he's got an E-11 Blaster
cocking his head from side to side
judging the degree
of our nakedness
the crumpled sheets
the toppled lamp
a naughty comment in his eyes:
you have to hoist the twins up, lady
if you want to avoid that god awful sag!

rolling over to your side you say
he'd be the perfect Stormtrooper
in an avian game of Star Wars
and I tap at the glass
as he flits away
landing on the dew spangled grass
in a smooth and graceful axel
and finding cover
in the camellia bushes
pew-pew-pew he shoots away
laser gunning the startled magpies
pulling out the pre-dawn worms.

Ormila Vijayakrishnan Prahlad is a Sydney artist, poet, and improv pianist of Indian heritage. She's a member of the North Shore Poetry Project and Authora Australis. Her recent works have been published in Neologism, Nine Muses Poetry, Active Muse, and several other literary journals in the US, UK, India, and Australia. Oormila regularly performs her poetry at venues in Sydney.