the PARIS REVIEW

Insomnia

Susan Barbour ISSUE 200, SPRING 2012

I have been courting sleep and catering to its taste in nightgowns.

I have poured it heady, vintage wines and frivolous, bubbly new ones.

I have wet my lips with chamomile and tried out different poses.

I have kept to my side of the bed—at first—then flung my limbs all over.

O Stubborn Lover. Nightly, I lie chasing stillness to seduce you—though,

we both know it: what drives me wild is your racy, mad refusal.