

PETER AUSTIN

Kismet's Little Treat

Samantha has a syndrome—BBS—
 That's left her short, and plump, and round of face,
 And lacking in agility and grace,
 But girlishly endearing, nonetheless.
 She chatters in an adenoidal squeak,
 Till consonants, untamable as fish,
 Metathesize or flee, against her wish,
 Provoking an exasperated shriek.

The progress of the syndrome is unseen,
 But, shortly, it will filch her nighttime vision,
 And, we can say with pitiless precision,
 That Sammy will be blind by seventeen,
 Confined to *feeling* kismet's little treat—
 That extra baby toe, on both her feet.

[BBS is the short form of Bardet-Biedl Syndrome.

Metathesis is a reversal of the order of two sounds or letters in a word]