

Vampires

I've known several vampires.
They're hospitable folk.
A vampire will give you
his bed and sleep on the floor.

They make superior guests,
the kind that get up at six,
go to the farmers' market
for fresh eggs and mushrooms,
then make omelettes for
everybody's breakfast.

Use your commonsense:
their survival depends
upon their invitations
being accepted.

 The old myths
are explicit about that.

Moreover, a vampire
can't simply walk in;
he has to be asked.

So they talk very well
and listen better
than almost anybody else.

You can't make them angry
and if one of them angers you
it is like this:

 You wake up.
He is bending over you.
There is blood on his lips.
You fight back.

 The other
picnickers say:
"Don't you remember?
You must remember.
There was a snake
and you might have died
except he sucked out the poison."

There is blood on his lips.
You fight back.
It is you they blame.