

LEAH BROWNING

Last Night in the Chair Museum

This time there were chairs, but the rooms were smaller
and arranged more like a house than a museum.

There were paintings and bookshelves, and tables and lamps
and plants, and a grand piano on an intricate woven rug.

I tiptoed through the rooms in my little black felt slippers,
which were soundless on the glossy hardwood floors.

I knew that this was the last time I would visit,
and my little glass eyes ached at the thought,

but I also knew that this moment was over, and it was
going to be all right. The old fear was almost gone.

Soundlessly, I tiptoed from room to room until I had
braided them together, until I knew that I would remember

everything, and then I reached up and unlocked the front door
and walked outside, into a day that was just unfolding.

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ABOUT LEAH BROWNING



Leah Browning is the author of three nonfiction books for teens and pre-teens (Capstone Press) and two chapbooks: *Picking Cherries in the Española Valley* (Dancing Girl Press, 2010) and *Making Love to the Same Man for Fifteen Years* (Big Table Publishing, 2009). Her third chapbook, *In the Chair Museum*, is forthcoming from Dancing Girl Press in 2013. Browning's fiction, poetry, essays, and articles have previously appeared in a variety of publications, including *Queen's Quarterly*, *Queen's Feminist Review*, *42opus*, *The Saint Ann's Review*, *Blood Orange Review*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *Brink Magazine*, *Halfway Down the Stairs*, *Sweet: A Literary Confection*, and *Per Contra*, as well as on a broadside from Broadsided Press, on postcards from the program Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf, and in several anthologies. In addition to writing, Browning serves as editor of the *Apple Valley Review*. Her personal website is located at www.leahbrowning.com.

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