

MAGGIE BLAKE BAILEY

Reprieve

If you live in good weather long enough
you forget the way light reenters a city,
pulling to its feet the sad ensemble of winter,
shining the grass, spray painting dogwood,
remaking and replacing birds onto boughs.

The days end slowly, requiring no larger
understanding, testing no accomplishment.
The sunlight asks you home and you reply
casually. You are no longer lonely in a city
that seemed built to throw wind down streets,
collect ice in gutters, sidewalks, and pockets.
I bet you don't remember that sense of reprieve:
that gratitude for walking home in the light.

HERON TREE

8 March 2015

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ABOUT MAGGIE BLAKE BAILEY

Maggie Blake Bailey's poetry has appeared in *Tar River Poetry*, *Flycatcher*, *Slipstream*, *Switchback*, and *Rappahannock Review*. She is working toward an MFA in poetry through the Sewanee School of Letters, and she serves as a poetry reader for *Winter Tangerine Review*. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia, where she teaches high school English, and can be found online at maggieblakebailey.com.

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