

KAREN L. GEORGE

The Wait

A small girl climbs
a stool, clenches blind slats.
Window light hems her
but filters no farther.
A glow from another room
hazes a bulky armchair,
deep-mantled fireplace,
or armoire that veils a TV.

Much of the photo in shadow.
To soften, disguise?

She waits. Tries to still.
The stripe of her top aligns
with the blinds, her crown haloed.

a response to a photograph by Katherine Clayton

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ABOUT KAREN L. GEORGE

Karen L. George is the author of *Swim Your Way Back* (Dos Madres Press 2014), *The Seed of Me* (Finishing Line Press 2015), and *The Fire Circle* (Blue Lyra Press 2016). Her work has appeared in *Memoir Journal*, *Still*, *The Adirondack Review*, *Naugatuck River Review*, and *The Louisville Review*. She received an MFA from Spalding University and is the co-founder and fiction editor of *Waypoints*. She also interviews poets and reviews chapbooks and poetry collections at *Poetry Matters*. She lives in Florence, Kentucky. Online at karenlgeorge.snack.ws.

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