

KAREN GEORGE

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Dear Mother, last night I dreamt

of silken ears and curly hair—a great, broad field  
of waving grain that talked to the wind.  
We came to a stream which glowed

with a hundredfold radiance,  
on the bank, violets so large and fragrant,  
their petals a deep, glossy luster.

You tapped your finger against rocks  
veined with gold, and I caught a glimpse  
of what seemed to be the mouth of a cavern.

At the threshold, in a voice like the stream's murmur,  
you say *Wait for me here*, and enter the portal.  
While you are gone, I lay along the sandy bed,

the sky so blue against the knotted trunk  
of a majestic oak—a woman with dripping hair.  
A thread of music runs in and out of the cave

like a blaze flickering. I hear you  
singing an exquisite song, imagine  
your shadow dancing an ecstasy of joy.

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

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“Dear Mother, last night I dreamt” was created from “The Pomegranate Seeds” in *Tanglewood Tales* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1853). About the poem and the process of composing it, Karen George writes:

I selected Nathaniel Hawthorne’s story “The Pomegranate Seeds” because I liked the title, and I simply ran my eyes over the pages, pulling out phrases I liked the sound of, or the imagery they suggested—making a list of them. When I had a 6-page list of phrases, I browsed them and circled ones that I liked best, again by sound and the imagery/idea they conjured. Then I began piecing them together to make some kind of sense. A dreamlike poem emerged that reminded me of dreams I’ve been having about my deceased mother since she died in March 2020.

Karen George is the author of *Swim Your Way Back* (Dos Madres Press 2014), *A Map and One Year* (Dos Madres Press 2018), and *Where Wind Tastes Like Pears* (Dos Madres Press 2021). Her work has appeared in *Sheila-Na-Gig Online*, *I-70 Review*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Writing in a Woman’s Voice*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere. She lives in Florence, Kentucky, and can be found online at [karenlgeorge.blogspot.com](http://karenlgeorge.blogspot.com).

HERON TREE  
2 November 2022  
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