

KAREN GEORGE

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When she caught another's attention, her body

swam the instant

the prickly wave

a delight

a

smile

felt

the

curve in

a shiver

the

instinct to

outlast

the gazer and

the

remembered

illumination

that stretch of

time

a place of newness

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“When she caught another’s attention, her body” was created from Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse* (1927). About the poem and the process of composing it, Karen George writes:

My erasure poem was created from page 24 of Virginia Woolf’s novel *To the Lighthouse*. I originally picked 24 because it was a multiple of 12, and when I browsed that page I was drawn in by the words *swam, instant, prickly, wave, shiver, gazer, remembered*. Then, I started at the top of the page, moving down it until I found one word that linked with another word that followed—to form the beginning of some image and/or meaning—and I wrote them on a separate sheet of paper. I proceeded down the page in the same manner until the end of the source page. When I typed the poem, I tried to keep the selected words in the same positions as they appeared on the page from which I sourced them. Somewhere in the process, a sort of narrative seemed to be developing, and I chose a poem title which suggested, or led into, that narrative.



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