

Carrie Magness Radna

Marrying into mental illness

Little by little
he had diminished her light
with his darkness

Sacrificing every
unborn pseudo child
into deep seas,
they all regenerated into
new life forms,
crawling towards land

Only the aged could understand
the sick and deluded souls
who try to rise about
any other form of madness

She wanted to stay safe,
so she married him,
but he was lying to her
about himself at the time

In the night forests, tigers roam free,
filling their victims with their hollowing
which only they could hear;
they see the tree falling down
even though it makes no sound—

And the things beloved from childhood
are still measured and tolerated,
giving the affected some peace
in a crazy world

But toys need to be put away
when one becomes of age,
she was taught this lesson early;
he never learned it

Instead of having a child,
she takes of him as if he's a child,
him embracing an arrested development
of his inner being.

She had waited for years,
staying too long at the fair
for her man to show up
to save her, instead,
she wears the knight's armor,
tossing horseshoes to win
a few moments of peace
without him.

Carrie Magness Radna is a member of the New York Poetry Forum, Parkside Poets and Riverside Poetry Society, and is a winner of 3rd prize for poetry (category: Words on the Wall: Prompt) at the 69th annual Philadelphia Writers' Conference. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, she currently works at the New York Public Library, sings alto in her community chorus (Riverside Choral Society), writes songs with her chorus friends, and lives with her husband Rudolf in Manhattan.