

## Patricia Carragon – Two Poems

### In Dreams

*(A candy-colored clown they call the sandman - Tiptoes to my room every night - Just to sprinkle stardust and to whisper - "Go to sleep. Everything is all right."—Roy Orbison)*

When I was a teen,  
no candy-colored clown paid me a visit,  
nor did everything turn out all right.  
When the lights went out,  
the sandman came,  
not once,  
but several occasions—  
gave me my first lessons  
in fear and distrust.  
Silent screams gasped for air,  
penetrating  
a blue-gray nightmare.

After a year's absence,  
the sandman returned,  
held up my painting—  
leafless tempera trees burned  
against an orange and red sky.  
He praised it,  
while destroying it.  
Scraps of orange, red, and ash paper  
fell like stardust.

Years later,  
he came by for the last time,  
dressed in a dull baggy suit—  
a beggar asking for forgiveness.  
Before disappearing  
into the blue-gray mist,  
he tapped my shoulder,  
whispered,  
*Everything will be all right.*

## **It's All in the Game**

Her intimacy traveled  
down his spine,  
but his tension blocked her hand.  
He jolted out of bed,  
yelled at her to stop.

Without saying a word,  
she sat up on her side of the bed.  
She heard the bathroom door slam  
and the squealing cries  
of the old faucet.  
Maybe this time,  
the water might drown his sorrow.  
He had his ritual  
and she had hers.

The bedroom was quiet,  
except for the Baby Ben.  
It heard and saw everything,  
but the clock ticked on,  
oblivious to the human drama.  
The miscarried child,  
the miscarried marriage.

From across the yard,  
a radio played "*It's All in the Game.*"  
Too many tears have been falling,  
their hearts have lost  
their wings,  
and this game was over.  
Without saying a word,  
she left the bed  
and closed the window.

**Patricia Carragon** is an active member of *brevitas*, the PEN Women's Literary Workshop, Women Writers in Bloom, and Tamarind, and an executive editor for *Home Planet News Online*. Her latest books are *The Cupcake Chronicles* (Poets Wear Prada, 2017) and *Innocence* (Finishing Line Press, 2017). Patricia hosts the Brooklyn-based Brownstone Poets and is the editor-in-chief of its annual anthology.