

Martin Willitts Jr.

Job Applicant

Her rolling hard life was the ruins of dirty diapers.
The sun tried to lift a nailed window in a stuffy room
too small to be uncomfortable and inefficient.
The bathroom had a curtain for a door.
The sink had a mountain of dishes
with roaches scaling their peaks.
Her recklessness had caught up to her.
She could not afford poverty.

She could not apply for jobs in her condition:
seven weeks pregnant and two possible donors.
At twenty her beauty had flushed away.
She would get nothing for her sagging body
on the open market, had no skills, never made it
to seventh grade, the gap between employment
was the same as between her two remaining teeth.
Loss is a hungry mouth on her drained breast.

Martin Willitts Jr is a retired Librarian living in Syracuse, New York. He has been nominated for 10 Pushcart and 10 Best of the Net Awards. His poems have appeared in *Blue Fifth*, *Centrifugal Eye*, *Stone Canoe*, *Kentucky Review*, *Muddy River Review*, and numerous others. He has 8 full-length collections and over 20 chapbooks of poetry. His forthcoming collections include *How to Be Silent* (FutureCycle Press) and *God Is Not Amused With What You Are Doing In Her Name* (Aldrich Press).