



POV - 3rd person

3rd reading

Portland, OR 1967 winter

is she's bundled in a carcoat, stocking hat, jeans, and tennies. she stands with her older sister at the corner of the house in a backyard of bare trees and brown grass. A wind chills their bare hands which clutch dolls, one with carefully combed pigtails and one with wild rockstar hair cut short and shorter and too short ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~end~~. This is six.

she is smiling - almost. The obedient smile for the camera; pose prompted by her grand father or perhaps her father ^(but unlikely) she was always waiting to be told what to do - ^{little afraid}

afraid to be in the way or too loud or in any way responsible for the drinking that frightened her ^{that} ^{blew against the house} like the wind rattling the windows. Drinking ^{its force unpredictable, unpredictable, unsafe.} that ^{chaos} had another six years of fury before it would burn itself out. ^{from chaos to calm before she went to high school}

But here she is ^{to bully this house with} she is here on this day in a yard squinting against the sun, holding her doll close, ^{the back} standing straight, waiting to be told what's next.

she will ^{deepen} take that quiet inside of her and learn a ^{to} deep fear of what she cannot predict. she will be cautious with people - especially boys and then men. ^{who are all too much like her father.} Her anger will rattle her - ^{even her own} ^{may} she cannot feel.

she will grow tall and strong and come to know how ^{pretending} ^{always to} courage is almost enough a borrowed cloak, but she will wear it ^{through} through her years and it will lead her from this house of ^{of plenty} to her own, from this family to her own of peace and ease, ^{of hard trying}

she cannot see ahead - ^{it is} and life is so uncertain here - but ^{that her stomach} quivers, worries. ^{watches for signs}

the light she squints into ^{she} will one day light the sky as lifts off in a plane bound for California and her life as a teacher. she'll see ^{this back yard} ~~behind~~ ~~street~~ recede into a line of trees, cars, rooftops, and power lines - ~~the cloak of courage wrapped tightly around her as she walks away towards~~ possibility, ^{to} ~~to~~ ~~warder~~ ^{moves from uncertainty to} ~~an unknown but~~ ^{hopeful future.}

from fear to hope. from then to now.

This almost smile is her wary smile. ^{caution's}