

## *Mary Ann Heimann*

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### **Blue Prom Dress**

(for Barbara)

She had it hanging by her desk,  
for her daughter's prom, she said  
and it was the deep blue shimmering of a lake  
with all the lurking promise.

You could drown in a dress like that...

In its depths I saw my daughter  
not quite two and  
swathed in damp, white cotton,  
my impatience a stopwatch  
urging her on  
faster, faster  
to move beyond the circumference  
of my shadow.

Then time got stuck on fast forward  
and I saw her grow in jerky motion  
throwing off rocking horse and pinafore  
until she stopped  
at the blue prom dress

and I was left alone, trembling on the shore.