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Anchored in the alpha of mothering constructing a house of dreams—untracked slope of hope, air lit by prospects: kid-days of dress-up, sports, friends and school.

He will grow up and marry, he will be whatever he wants.

He runs and shouts with his sister, their breath fogs a *snap* of winter air, bare trees crown, climb into blue.

A tweak of gene, tidy replication missing one number and muscles atrophy. Illness makes a mockery of life-vested cocoon.

He will be what we cannot hold.

He sits more, so do we, closer to coronets of daffodils their waning

cheer pollen-laden, teams of summer bees in striped jerseys, fallen autumn apples bruised but edible.

My body the only constant.

I carry him up the stairs, splayed as a deer across my shoulders, snare of his heart beating against my neck.

> Suzanne Edison's work appears in various places including her chapbook, *The Moth Eaten World*, Finishing Line Press, 2014; *Spillway*, Dec. 2013; *Pontoon #6* from Floating Bridge Press; *The Healing Art of Writing*, Vol. 1; *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine; Face to Face: Women Writers on Faith, Mysticism and Awakening; Pearl; and Crab Creek Review.* She lives in Seattle, Washington. Website: www.seedison.com