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## For Katherine

Nicole Raveman

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## For Katherine

Sitting on the witness stand  
her feet did not reach the floor,  
a microphone bobbing  
in small hands.

Her mother and sister  
out in the hallway,  
witnesses  
for the prosecution.

Her brothers  
witnesses  
for the defense.

Feet wrapped around chair rungs  
could not prevent her  
slipping and sliding.  
She looked out  
at a room  
full of strangers,  
save for the father  
who had brought her there.  
Soft voice lost  
amid the mahogany and marble.  
Her thumb hovered close to her mouth.

Daddy took her into his room,  
undressed her, put his penis  
inside her mouth.  
then between her legs.  
Told her not to tell.  
She got a sore throat,  
could not pronounce  
the word "gonorrhea."  
She heard daddy say  
he wanted to throw  
a dart  
through her picture.

by Nicole Raveman