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Diane Webster

Door to the Museum

Smells a little like Grandma's closet
when I used to hide behind all
the dresses and boxes during
hide-and-seek, no one
found me pressing my face

against aging cloth from the
old world like black-and-white
photographs of Russian ancestors
scowling at this idleness
while crops drooped harvest
in the fields no one but them
would tend and touch
like children tugging at their hems.

Door to the Library

Swishes back and forth
in hushed reverence to every author
alive or dead who dared write
caverns of shelves echoing whispers
of characters or patrons conjoined,
pious epiphanies of imagination
trembling between page leaves
tempting eyes to peruse words
like choosing meat and vegetables
for a recipe torn clandestinely
from the doctor office's scatter
of magazines no one would notice
another rip jagged missing;
between reverie and car horns,
swishes back and forth.

Door to the Birdhouse

Warm, cozy snuggling into recycled
cottonwood tree fluff with feathers snagged
rolling across the lawn like door-to-door
salesman samples given free.
Swaying motion, a light instructor
by osmosis to the fledglings inside
while Mom and Dad block peeping sunshine
with deliveries of grasshopper pâté
and earthworm gruel until night
cups into darkness the day.

Door to the Mortuary

Whispers like ancestors
glaring from fading tintypes
demanding no desecration of the family
name chiseled in granite decade
after decade. Expecting the undertaker
to squeeze out from a door inside
we all want to see but not see
like a wreck on Highway 50 where
police car and ambulance lights
dot dot dot dash dash dash
dot dot dot. Carpets, flowers,
couches soften rigid
death shock until names, dates,
places are not even forgotten.

Door to the Elevator

Forced into stationary confinement
to listen to a ding like Pavlov's dog –
open sesame close now.

Gone rogue, it whispers open
to tow winds sucking
through hollow where elevator
should await passengers . . .
Watch your step please!

Diane Webster's work has appeared in *Old Red Kimono*, *Talking River Review*, *Better Than Starbucks*, and other literary magazines.