

## Carrie Magness Radna

### Being late

They said you were usually late  
to school. One morning  
I followed you, finding out why:

You stood back & sighed  
as you watched a young duck family  
crossing the road—stepping in to save their lives

by watching out for cars. Then,  
when you appeared before the  
fountain in the mini-park,

you noticed the orange & yellow  
oak & elm leaves falling, as they  
danced with autumnal breezes

before they hit the ground; the silver  
sprays of water recycling over & over  
again, catching shapes like spitting fish

or swirls off of elegantly tiered wedding cakes.  
You tossed a penny into the fountain  
& made a wish, looking like you were feeling

completely present in that moment.  
Then, the church bell rang, & you  
ran off, cursing under your breath.

**Carrie Magness Radna** is an audiovisual cataloger at New York Public Library, a choral singer and a poet who loves traveling. Her poems have previously appeared in *The Oracular Tree*, *Mediterranean Poetry*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Poetry Super Highway*, *Shot Glass Journal*, *Vita Brevis*, *Home Planet News*, *Walt's Corner*, *Polarity eMagazine*, *The Poetic Bond (VII-X)*, *Alien Buddha Press*, *Jerry Jazz Musician*, *Rye Whiskey Review* and *First Literary Review-East*. Her first poetry collection, *Hurricanes never apologize* (Luchador Press) was published in December 2019. Her latest collection, *In the blue hour* (Nirala Publications) was published in February 2021. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, she now lives with her husband in Manhattan.