

Helga Kidder

False Alarm

Roused from my first sleep
by Medical Alert, I expected
to see you prone on the floor
or worse suspended over
the kitchen sink, water pouring
onto the floor. The room
lit by the full moon in the window
I called your name. Silence.
I found you toweling off in the tub
with a surprised look. *What? How?*
You didn't push the button?
No!
Well then, all is ok and I'll leave.
Sure, come back
another time.

Helga Kidder lives in the Tennessee hills. Her poems appeared in *Poetry Quarterly*, *American Diversity Report*, *Silver Blade* and others. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She has four collections of poetry, *Wild Plums*, *Luckier than the Stars*, *Blackberry Winter* and *Loving the Dead* which won the Blue Light Press Book Award in 2020.