

Keith Tornheim

Turn of Circumstance

Dance with me! Dance with me!
Once more before that curtain falls.
I held her hand so tightly,
struggled and pleaded
to keep her among the living.

But when the dark curtain fell
and the lights came on,
it was she, eyes blinking,
who faced the smiles of the living,
while I was backstage
in the anteroom of the grave.

Keith Tornheim, a biochemistry professor at Boston University School of Medicine, has five books, *I Am Lilith*, *Dancer on the Wind*; *Spirit Boat: Poems of Crossing Over*; *Can You Say Kaddish for the Living?*; *Fireflies: Poems of Love and Family* and *Spoiled Fruit: Adam and Eve in Eden and Beyond*. His poems have appeared in *Ibbetson Street*, *The Somerville Times*, *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Poetica*.