

Linda M. Fischer

The Photo

Unearthed by my daughter, a long buried photo of my parents that I had never seen—they, heart-breakingly young, on the brink of starting their life together—and me barely a twinkle in my father's eye as he leans into my mother, one hand wrapped around hers protectively—taking me to a remote time and place I could never know, our lives yet to unfold: I was startled in the moment, having them virtually reappear, resurrected—insensible of being orphaned for so many years, bereft of that bedrock of security a child knows, and left now to face inevitable aging on my own. How we manage to repress the pain of losses, old griefs mixed with love—what the lens of a lifetime enables us to see. It rushes back in a welter of emotion—me feeling like the parent and wanting to hold them safely in my arms.

Linda M. Fischer's poems have appeared in a variety of journals: *Atlanta Review*, *Blue Heron Review*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *Poetry East*, *Potomac Review*, *Roanoke Review*, *Valparaiso Poetry Review*, *The Worcester Review* and the recent anthology *Art Through the Eyes of Mad Poets, An Ekphrastic Poetry Collection* among others. She won the 2019 Philadelphia Writers' Conference Poetry Contest and last year also published her 3rd chapbook, *Passages*, with The Orchard Street Press.