

Sara Backer

For Tinker Bell

Magnolia branches bent with ice
form a cage.
We enter to view sky
through fragile walls.

As soon as we imagine
fairyland, our narrative
is false. We savor this brief
beauty on the brink.

Whatever we might have done
to protect our tree,
we didn't. Too late, now—
April's flowers will be few.

We know what will come
next: accidents, blackouts,
broken limbs. We rub stiff fingers,
stamp our feet.

We clap.

A former world wanderer, **Sara Backer** returned to her native New England. She took a prize in the 2019 Plough Poetry competition and has accumulated nine Pushcart nominations. Recent and forthcoming poem publications include *Slant*, *Lake Effect*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Poetry Northwest*. Her first book, *Such Luck* (2019) follows two chapbooks: *Scavenger Hunt* (2018) and *Bicycle Lotus* (2015) which won the Turtle Island Chapbook Award.