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Transformations

Karen George
karenlgeo@zoomtown.com

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Transformations

for Clara Scheper

Grandma, the day you died,
late in December, I crossed
from Kentucky to Ohio.
Parallel strings of light
I drove between

transposed
to strands of DNA, pulsing.
Streetlamps flared,
floated from their posts,
drew together like magnets.

When the current entered,
I no longer heard
tires hum the bridge,
felt the wheel vibrate,
smelled winter or river.

The moment peeled
forward, into place,
and lamps returned
to their posts
and subdued states.

I don't remember driving
the leftover blocks, but
I never forgot
how the light bodies clustered
as you birthed your way back.

Karen George, author of Into the Heartland (Finishing Line Press, 2011), has been awarded grants from The Kentucky Foundation for Women and Kentucky Arts Council. Her work has appeared in Memoir, Still, Single Hound, Thumbnail, Vestal Review, and Barcelona Review. She holds an MFA in Writing from Spalding University.