

Wilderness House Literary Review 13/4

Katherine Carlman

"And Close to You, Bid Me"

You have to be this tall to come in here.
Years of exclusion,
Stand here. Are you this high? No!

isolation,
Don't you know that yet?
create no assumption

They don't let little kids go.
of inclusion
You're so stupid.

or camaraderie.
You're too young to come along.
Alone is swallowed.

No, you can't come in here.
Accepted, understood.
It's not for you.

Hope needs time and space
I can't believe you did that.
for trust to start.

What were you thinking?
But even then,
Little kids aren't allowed!

one dares not at all
Just stand over there until we're done.
to dream of common union.

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Then one day, the nod, the bob of the head,
Come, you belong here.
a cool gesture that presumes acceptance...

Joy comes, the heart flutters
"And close to You, bid me."
After all, the feel of wanted.