

Love Like This

Gayelene Carbis

Before my father got fat he used to say he was trim taut and terrific. And he was. Movie-star looks; an athletic build. He'd swim sixty laps at the Prahran Pool, up and down with my baby brother on his back. A chunky little body and a head of golden curls in the sky. Those chubby hands holding him. Never falling off and never letting go as my father pressed on stroke after stroke. And we were so beautiful then, all of us. Now we are older, or old. But my brother, my brother has been a boy in a grown man's body forever. Last year he turned forty. None of us was allowed near him. He turned forty alone. My father told me my brother had said he had nothing to show for it. When he talked to me for the first time in ten years, I couldn't concentrate on what he was saying. All I could see was that boy on his father's back, waiting for the sun to come out and shine on him.

Gayelene Carbis's first book of poetry, *Anecdotal Evidence* (Five Islands Press) was awarded Finalist - International Book Awards, 2019. Gayelene's awards in 2020 include: First Prize- My Brother Jack Poetry Award, and was Finalist - Woorilla Poetry Prize (Commended) and Finalist - Bruce Dawe Poetry Award.