

Behind the Scenes

By Laura Sharon

Frantic child
Running
This way and that.
Unsure.
No direction.
Stranger
Crosses the street
Meeting
Palpable
9-year old panic.
Backpack in tow.

Can I help you, honey?
Words tumble
Rapidly
From his mouth.
Mom didn't come.
Where are you running to?
Home.
Where is that?
Riverdale.
That is far away.

Do you know your phone number?
Have any money?

Palpable
9-year old panic.
Backpack in tow.
Yes, I know my number.
C'mon, let's call your mom.
There is a pay phone
Right there.

Ringing.
Mom answers.
I have your son.
Mom, you forgot me.
Strangers
Sit on the wall
Waiting for mom to come.
They talk.
Always
Have change in the
Backpack
In case.
She comes.
They leave.
Behind the scenes,
A silent hero.