God Left The Gate Open

By Georgina M. Cox

God left the gate open
or somebody forgot
either way, I saw the daylight
and mistook it for a thought

I had dirt along my ankles
I had winter in my lungs
I thought an open door meant I was wanted
I was young
I was young

There were foxgloves by the roadside
little bells turned to the ground
I had never learned that beautiful things
could grow where something drowned

So I followed every kindness
like a match across the dark
you held your hand out very gently
I mistook it for a heart

And I know, I know
a rabbit ought to run

But you looked so much like morning
with the barrel toward the sun

God left the gate open
I ran straight into your arms
God left the gate open

and I called the danger calm

You said, “nothing’s gonna hurt you”
with your hand behind your back

I thought freedom was a feeling

I didn’t know
it was a trap

I didn’t know
I didn’t know

You were careful with the language
Never *cag*e, never *st*a*y*
you just moved the walls an inch each night
and took the field away

I began to sleep much lighter
I could hear you cross the floor
funny how an open doorway
doesn’t look open anymore

And every time you touched me
I became a little still

Like the body knows the ending
long before the person will

And I know, I know
a rabbit ought to run

But fear and love look identical
when you’re staring at the gun

God left the gate open
I ran straight into your arms

God left the gate open
and I called the danger calm

You said, “nothing’s gonna hurt you”
while the whole horizon blacked

I thought freedom was a feeling

I didn’t know
it was a trap

God left the gate open
God, I wish He hadn’t done that

Maybe nothing chased me
Maybe that was worse

Maybe I was born believing
every hunger was a thirst

Maybe I saw teeth
and thought,
how lovely

Maybe I saw blood
and thought,
not mine

Maybe I was only trying
to be chosen
for one night

I was your little rabbit
I thought I was adored
But prey is only precious
when the hunter gets bored