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Loser

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Connecticut Storytelling Center

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Loser

by Sara deBeer

Without thinking
Without blinking
My eyes rapidly
Stamp each person I see;
I use a rating
Hating
That I have an internal
(infernal)
Sliding scale
Female
Male
Dark to pale
Body size and shape
I gape
To see how unlike me
These beings can be.

Reported, then sorted:
Those to steer away from
I'm done
With most of the room
So soon
Rejected
Ejected
From my world view
Only a few
Worth talking to.

But what of the remark
The spark
The flint-striking-steel
I steal
Without thinking
Without blinking
From my own chance to know
To grow
Beyond rapid-fire choosing
Once again losing
The awareness of the cost
Of what I've lost.

Sara deBeer has a BA in English from Yale (summa cum laude) and a MA of Science in Education from the Bank Street School of Education, New York. An experienced teacher and workshop leader, deBeer has also been a storyteller for more than 35 years. While at Yale, deBeer received the Robert C. Bates Fellowship and spent the summer of 1980 studying storytelling traditions in Ireland. Upon graduating from Yale, she received the George A. Schrader, Jr. Prize for Excellence in the Humanities. In 2005, she became a CWP Fellow by attending the highly selective Connecticut Writing Project (CWP), University of Connecticut at Storrs. A lover of literature and a published poet with a finely tuned ear to the nuances of good writing, deBeer is a skilled discussion leader who is committed to giving each participant the opportunity to share ideas and insights. More information about deBeer can be found at <http://storydebeer.com>.



Artwork by Izzie Boyce-Blanchard