

Fenella Berry

Straight Lane

My first home, the fourteenth floor
Wheatley Court flats at the bottom of Straight Lane.
Is that why I don't like heights?
Mum and Dad took turns to push my pram
(no car back then)
all the way up Straight Lane, hard going.
Incidentally, it's not totally straight, it curves.
Mum took me to the baby clinic
at the old Sunday school round the corner, at the top.
Dad pushed me up the hill to get me
to go to sleep. He went looking for
our next home.
Of course I can't remember
any of this
apart from a vague memory
of a balcony and being held.
Every time we drive up now
Mum and Dad tell me
how they pushed my pram up here
fifty-five years ago now.