

## **A Prayer for Light**

**Emma Lee**

My favourite time of the day. A lingering coffee while the sun sets before I power up the lighthouse and hope my night remains as blank as the sun.

I don't want to phone the coastguard and trigger the lifeboats. It means loss. Not always of life, but a loss of those who never come back the same. Cheating death, succumbing to the power of the sea, changes you. Makes you an island. Leaves loved ones baffled, creating further isolation.

No, let's hope for a bland, empty night. The light a signal that it will be OK. Morning will come. And I can sleep.

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## **The Park's Irregular Visitor**

**Emma Lee**

The swing shifts in the breeze.  
Tucked in a corner of the park  
it gives users an open view,  
enables the picked-on to see bullies  
coming, hear the ice-cream van chimes.  
In the spring sunshine  
the chains squeak against the pole,  
rust flakes drift to the ground.  
The uncut grass is littered  
with dandelions and daisies.  
The streets no longer echo with traffic.  
If the swing could feel surprise,  
it would feel it as it's nudged,  
not by a child, not by a parent,  
but by a nose, dry, sniffing  
at the plastic seat.  
Satisfied it's not edible,  
the sheep bleats a message of safety.

## **A New Breed**

**Emma Lee**

At first glance the city is deserted,  
but a heap of clothes shifts, shivers.  
When businesses are shut,  
there's no cardboard waste for shelter,  
no food waste from unsold sandwiches,  
nowhere to shower or wash clothes.  
The hospitality homeless drift,  
low wages, lack of savings, unpaid rent,  
no work, no street knowledge.  
A charity worker says they are shell-shocked.

Emma Lee's publications include "The Significance of a Dress" (Arachne, 2020) and "Ghosts in the Desert" (IDP, 2015). She co-edited "Over Land, Over Sea," (Five Leaves, 2015), is Reviews Editor for The Blue Nib, reviews for magazines and blogs at <http://emmalee1.wordpress.com>. FB: <https://www.facebook.com/EmmaLee1>. Twitter @Emma\_Lee1.

Favourite poem "Katrina" Patricia Smith