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WATER GARDEN IN THE HAMPTONS

Karen Walker

A bronzed trophy wife on a pedestal—her smile weathered verdigris—spits tea into pink and yellow china bobbing on the water. Finger sandwiches float on lily pads: watercress for the turtle (her husband's law partner), smoked salmon for the picky heron heiress. Salamander debutantes impress with shine and tiny appetites. Someone's raccoon uncle washes his lecherous hands. Frogs—green bachelors vain about their shapely legs—breaststroke. Goldfish brats wrestle over macarons, madeleines circulating on silver bubbles as social media damselflies in sheer sundresses, fussing about the splash and the insult to the hostess, tweet to the great unwashed.

Art: "Partycrasher" by Flora Horton

Karen Walker writes short fiction and flash in Ontario, Canada. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in Reflex Fiction, Defenestration, Sunspot Lit, The Brasilia Review, Funny Pearls, Commuterlit, Blank Spaces, and others. People say Karen is fun and frustrating, even at a distance.

Flora Horton