Wedding Photo, 1942

Garbed in his handsome RCAF uniform, gold shoulder wings angled for flight, my father wears a triumphant grin.

His head is thrown back in full flood light.

My mother wears a warblue gaberdine suit. Ivory laces the collar.

Beneath a netted hat she pauses on the edge of a dazzling smile.

I blink, the photo blurs...

I watch her slow white pumps to the altar. Her left hand quivering as she removes the pale glove.

Light trembles above her face then shatters into squares of a stained glass window. Behind her, the palms of Christ are blinded with blue light.

Her eyes moisten with panic. It is the moment of her swept-back veil.

GAIL GHAI