

Amy Silbergeld:

Amy Silbergeld's work has appeared or is upcoming in *Fence*, *NAP*, *The Rumpus*, *VICE*, *metazen*, *No, Dear*, and elsewhere.

New England Gothic

Open-lipped Dora,
old enough to be chained

in a red room, bent in an attic.
Hair yellow but plain otherwise.

Doctor claims he gets nothing,
that Dora touched herself,

thus her plainness, fantasies of love
come unsought. Stiller doom

than Dora's, Father slipping
letters under her sealed door.

Only babies fear ghosts.
Dora. Reality testing unreliable,

negative exhibit. Jetty curls.
Exacting claims of love.

White branches whip the window,
refusing the identity of the glass.

Cold rain, knuckling raps.
Father thinking lace tops of socks.

Dora thinking not poor Dora
but poor Father.

Dora old enough to jerk
the criminal from his crime.