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## I Am a Midwestern Winter

I have a collection of space heaters.  
My hair was expected to be black  
like my father's. You were conceived  
by a beach and a valium.

I say I don't have the best  
immune system.

(I have a yeast infection. I have canker sores.  
I have agreed to be a 31 year old dog sitter.)

I grew up wearing a tutu  
over snow pants.  
Stephanie Tanner and Dawn  
from Baby-Sitters Club, mythical  
to me as centaurs.

I think about warm places. As I listen  
to Josephine Baker sing Brazil  
I could swear she says  
where you put your ass in it.

Meg Johnson is the author of the full length poetry collection *Inappropriate Sleepover* (The National Poetry Review Press, 2014) which was recently a NewPages Editor's Pick. Her poems have appeared in *Hobart*, *Nashville Review*, *The Puritan*, *Sugar House Review*, *Verse Daily*, and others. Meg started dancing at a young age and worked professionally in the performing arts for many years. She is the editor of *Dressing Room Poetry Journal* and recently received her MFA in creative writing from the NEOMFA Program. She is working on her second full length collection which has been a finalist in book contests. Meg is currently a lecturer at Iowa State University. Her website is: [megjohnson.org](http://megjohnson.org) and she blogs at: [megjohnsonmegjohnson.blogspot.com](http://megjohnsonmegjohnson.blogspot.com)