

# The Window Keeper

by Yolanda Wisher

The Declaration of Independence  
Is a giant window  
On the side of a skyscraper  
Called America.  
We pass this tall building  
Made of many stories  
Everyday on our way  
To work, to school.  
The Giant Window  
Is smudged & clouded  
With the dust of  
Past showers & storms.

Behind The Giant Window  
Is the work of important men  
Whose names & faces are etched  
Into the frame of the Building.  
Late nights, the Window's glow  
Guides the steps of locals,  
Enchants the eyes  
Of travelers in flight.  
The light inside & out  
Dims & wanes,  
But it never expires.

Every now & then, we see  
A brave Window Cleaner  
Scraping the sky  
Of the Window,  
Risking life & limb  
To make it sparkle again.  
To make it plain  
& lay it bare.

We should stand in wonder of someone  
Who labors to make the Window  
Clear enough to walk or fly through.  
We should look up in wonder to someone  
Who can peer into the past & see the world  
With clarity, precariously precise.  
We should wonder in awe about someone  
So bound & yet free.

The Window Keeper knows something  
About the pageantry of patriotism  
That down on the ground, I don't,  
But I want to believe  
What they must believe:  
That not only does the Window  
Need to let in the light,  
It needs to reflect the light  
Of each new day.

Let us all be this believer,  
Out on the scaffold of history,  
Swinging from the platforms  
Of our stories,  
Scrawling our names  
Like graffiti artists  
Across the gaps like glue,  
Polishing the Giant Window  
'Til we see our own  
Luminous faces.

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