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## The Landing

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## The Landing

### Abstract

I am on the landing when Mom asks Dad what the problem is.

### Keywords

house, irritations, couples, changes



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## The Landing

Sarah Carson

I am on the landing when Mom asks Dad what the problem is. The carpet is new, and the polyester scratches my face as I lay my ear closer to the edge of the stairs. He says it has something to do with the way she eats her ice cream, the tacos she makes that are not really tacos, the paintings of mountains that look more like hills. Then there's a silence that I think means something other than silence. Next, a "No, I will not go to counseling," a "No, I do not think that I have changed." In the months that follow, strangers will see the sign out front and knock on the sliding glass doors. "Mom is at night school," we'll tell them. "Dad lives in an apartment across town." We'll write the asking price down on a scrap of notebook paper. "This is how you turn on the garbage disposal," we'll explain. "This is how you remove the cover from the pool."

Sarah Carson was born and raised in Flint, Michigan but now lives in Chicago with her dog, Amos, who has recently learned to swim. She is the author of the chapbooks *Before Onstar* (Etched Press, 2009), *Twenty-Two* (Finishing Line Press, 2010), and *When You Leave* (H\_NGM\_N, forthcoming in 2012).

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