

Developing my father

My father has been enlarged
in a Sydenham photo shop
specialising in reproductions
and silver fish repair. He walks
with my mother down Hereford
Street. She wears a hat and tender
gloves, he wears a striped shirt,
the collar splayed like the wings
of his RSA badge. There is a war
to put behind them, shopping
to do, hungry mouths to feed.
The street photographer shoots
them wide eyed under a white sky.
For years he stores the negatives,
my mother and father
holding hands in the dark.



Frankie McMillan is an award winning short story writer and poet. Her first book, *The Bag Lady's Picnic and other stories* was published in 2001 by Shoal Bay Press. She won the 2009 New Zealand Poetry Society International Poetry Competition. Her poetry collection, *Dressing for the Cannibals* is to be launched this August as part of the Christchurch City Libraries 150th celebrations. Frankie currently teaches creative writing at CPIT and the Hagley Writers' Institute.



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