MONTAGE
FOR JERED

We are in the montage of the romantic comedy—
the one with the underdogs and their crazy dream.
For the most part, it is slapstick and funny
and the montage song is really catchy and peppy.
But those three minutes in the movie (I swear
there is always a fixing-up-an-old-building scene in which
the underdog and all the underdog friends end up
giggling in a paint fight) are actually several months,
even years in real life—so much trying and failing,
a constant birth and death and rebirth of faith.
And the hardest part of being the underdog
is all the waiting, waiting out all the pesky naysayers,
waiting out all the doubt, waiting out all the waiting.
In the montage all that doubt and downtime
are crumpled on the cutting room floor.
Here we are at the door of our own crazy dream.
That peppy song is almost over. I think we pulled it off.

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SARAH KOBRINSKY

Sarah Kobrinsky was the 2013-2015 Poet Laureate of Emeryville, CA. Her poems and stories have appeared in Magma Poetry, Red Light Lit, Eleven Eleven, Monkeybicycle, *82 Review, 100 Word Story, Fjords Review, among many others. She was recently long-listed for the 2019 University of Canberra Vice Chancellor's Poetry Prize. Nighttime on the Other Side of Everything (New Rivers Press, 2019) is her first full collection of poetry. She was born in Canada, raised in North Dakota, seasoned in England, and tempered in California. Sarah and her husband have a handmade dinnerware company called Jered's Pottery.