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THE PRESCHOOLER AND THE COWBOY KILLER

ELI REDEKER

The young girl judges
sitting, watching
“Perhaps,” she says
watching the carcinogens spew above the lawn

There is no adulthood,
no authority in their surroundings
“Perhaps,” she says
with all options on the table

Cool water, from a Kmart hose
flows into the Kmart pool
“Perhaps,” she says
we have no reason for leisure

The yard is finally
trimmed by outside forces.
“Perhaps,” she says
the grass will die this way.

She put makeup on
though she knew she'd regret it
“Perhaps,” she says
The thinness of beauty is to be celebrated

They are never bored
because they are young
“Perhaps,” she says
youth is exciting

And is there any more to life
than sitting in water and plastic?
“Perhaps,” she says
but she doubts it

Inspired by the photograph, “Amanda and Her Cousin Amy,” by Mary
Ellen Mark.