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Joe & the Easy Chair

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Joe & the Easy Chair

Tricia Cimera

Joe found the easy chair,
discarded,
a few nights after
his ex-wife told him
what a better man
her new husband was.
Joe saw the chair
while out walking alone
in the dark, wondering
Why Why Why?
The easy chair, thrown out -
replaced by a new recliner -
sat on the curb
wondering Why too.
Joe, worn out,
curled up in it's softness
(the chair whispered Welcome),
and fell fast asleep.
He dreamt of
a yellow kitchen table
set for two,
a warm, ruffled bed,
and of learning the strange,
secret language of women.
The chair dreamt
the dreams of those
who had slept in it's arms.
When he awoke,
Joe felt rested, new.
He took the easy chair,
that had materialized
like a comrade

in the black night,
back to his empty apartment
and began living life.
He forgot the word Why.
He came to believe
in second chances.

Years later,
Joe's ex-wife, waking
from nightmares,
would still call out *Joe!*
She always remembered
the feel of his hand
stroking the curve
of her face.