All That Divides Us

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FOUND SNAPSHOT:
THE YEAR HIS SISTER LEFT

A young father pulls
back his small daughter
in a wooden swing,
a plank and two ropes
hung from an oak.

It’s early evening
after work. He looks
tired, with his tie loose,
his white shirt open
at the neck. He holds
her steady and close
to him, pausing this
instant before he
lets her swoop out
among leaves and sky
back to his arms again.
The little girl’s face
is complete as a rose.
For this one moment
her father belongs
only to her. He will
always stand there
to hold her back,
let her swing out,
bring her home.