

ANGELA REGAS

STATE FAIR

Editor's Note

The photographs on the following pages and on our cover are excerpted from the series *State Fair* by Angela Regas, who recently received an MFA in photography from the University of Iowa. She writes:

At the state fair, everything comes in candy colors. Everything is bright, shining, blinking, glowing, popping, chirping: everyone wins! Even the carnies, dried and brown and tired, push shy teenagers towards each other like smoke-stained cupids. Why don't you win that pretty girl a rose? How can you help but smile? Laugh? Spin and shriek on the rides, get your hands and face sticky with funnel cake and giant hot dogs and win your girl a prize?

42 *And yet, for a moment, a clearing opens up in the crowd and I see a young girl standing alone, arms crossed, waiting. She looks tired. Another moment later and she is lost as the crowd fills the space again. That is what I am looking for: the moments when the spell breaks, and all the cotton candy and inflatable dolphins can't stop her feet from aching.*

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