

CRAIG BEAVEN

Portrait of My Daughter in Repose

September 23, 2020

My daughter is asleep on the couch in our home
just like Breonna Taylor—

My daughter is Black and asleep in our home
just like Breonna Taylor—

They decided today it was an innocent
mistake when they killed Breonna Taylor—

Mistake because they were white; to make it,
you can't be the color of my daughter,

you need to be white,
but she can't be white, not my daughter,

safe in our home on the couch after a nightmare
and not out in the world. Breonna Taylor

wasn't outside, where the world
could reach her. *What world?* The one where they

can come in without knocking, that's rude,
you aren't a friend to my daughter,

you don't even know
Breonna Taylor. Daughter:

if you are outside and they come for you,
you need to come in. If you are safe inside

when it happens then
get outside and hide.

She's five years old,
my daughter, so when will I tell her

about Breonna Taylor? *What if they didn't
always carry guns*, hmmm, that's a good

idea. I wonder if she is shielded by me, a white father,
if she were white you couldn't kill her.