

true, but they are. It's beautiful out here, Michael, don't you think so?"

The boy began sobbing. It was as if her words had unlocked a doorway to all his shame and terror. He shook, rocking himself and moaning. She rubbed her hand up and down his back to comfort him, and it comforted her, too.

Naomi cried with him. She put her arm around his shoulders and rocked with him. The wailing that came from his small body felt stronger than the ocean wind.

Ben Masaoka was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, a third-generation Japanese American now living in Seattle, Washington. Married, he has three children and an old black cat named Kuroneko. A newly retired teacher, Masaoka is working on a novel. He has published in the *Chicago Quarterly Review*.

LOUISE LEBOURGEOIS

Light at the Horizon, 2018
Oil on panel, 36 x 36 in

