

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Margaret Osburn ([00:01](#)):

I asked a 10 year old friend of mine once, I said, "What makes a good story?" And she said, "The best stories are the ones with the most problems." Margaret Osbourne, 611 Deepdene Road. Well, I don't have a word count goal. I write until my eyes are crossed. Five mobiles hung from the lost railing. 28 yellowed snowflakes, each the size of a giant cookie, cascaded at odd angles just above our heads. I have a small net book that I can lie down with the netbook on my stomach and not look at the screen and type like crazy. And I find that very freeing, not looking at the monitor.

Aaron Henkin ([00:47](#)):

Just listen to the sound of the keys, I guess.

Margaret Osburn ([00:49](#)):

I just listen to the words in my head and go with it because I can type pretty fast.

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*Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).*

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Margaret Osburn (00:56):

Iris laughed. Not that mindless shrill that trips from the tip of girls' vocal chords, but a bird song that resonated from the groundswell of her being.

Margaret Osburn (01:08):

I try to write a scene. I might just write one scene a day or something until the story is complete. And then I go through with pair of tweezers and look at every single word to make sure that all the words conform to the same color palette.

Margaret Osburn (01:27):

We're suspended, draped and bound in broken twisted wires and strings. When our breathing grows quiet, I help her down. Broken snowflakes and the harsh skin of dragon hearts pierce our feet.

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