

Apparently, the Story is None of Our Business

We bought the tickets and popcorn,
but the projector doesn't seem to be working.
We can shift in our seats, but that
doesn't seem to make time move forward.
Our eyes start to waiver as we stare
at the blank screen.
We put so much time and effort
to come here tonight,
to bear witness to these developments
and to see the culmination of their arcs.
Instead, we're left looking to see
if the shadows can tell us a story
since the actors refuse to grace us.
Maybe we'll understand
when someone makes a statement,
but until then, we'll cough and
wait to be included.

Title comes from a riff from the Mystery Science Theater 3000 episode The Girl in Gold Boots.

BIO: Alex Carrigan (he/him) is a Pushcart-nominated editor, poet, and critic from Alexandria, VA. He is the author of *Now Let's Get Brunch* (Querencia Press, 2023) and *May All Our Pain Be Champagne* (Alien Buddha Press, 2022). He has appeared in *The Broadkill Review*, *Sage Cigarettes*, *Barrelhouse*, *Fifth Wheel Press*, *Cutbow Quarterly*, and more. Visit carriganak.wordpress.com or follow him on Twitter @carriganak for more info.