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State Fair

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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?

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.