

Voyeur

While he spit out his rage
 splitting the air with his venom
 you stood and watched
 in awe

As he sought us out
 each cowering
 in hiding places
 we trembled with fear
 and prayed his anger would dissipate

But the search only fuelled his ire
 and when he found us
 one by one
 we were forced to acknowledge
 the full extent of his fury
 on our small bodies

He hunted us out
 and you stood transfixed
 unable to speak
 even his name
 you did not scream *STOP*
 shield us
 or protect us

Instead, when his force was spent
 his rage exhausted
 and he sunk down
 to his own small self again
 you comforted him
 soothed his aching spirit
 and soon busied yourself
 with dinner
 leaving us
 alone with our grief
 and the loss
 of first one parent
 then the other

Ruth Panofsky