

# Distractions

## "Reaching"

Life's ambitions held in check  
By the constraints of the 'ideal',  
Those supposed standards  
To which we are bound.  
Too often we fly above  
The clouds in the sky,  
Only to Fall to the ground  
With broken wings.  
Back to the beginning  
We cry for Freedom,  
Only to be drowned  
By an echo.

Matthew J. Collins

## Letting go

In elaborate masks we shadow truth.  
Only in desperate hours can we touch reality.  
With time only the pain of loss can find escape.  
Emotions of pain and remorse build chains  
which bind the very soul.  
Never letting memories erase into droplets  
that form and fall to earth quietly and alone.

Blackness now falls heavily around me.  
Like a blanket surrounds a new born,  
The dark comforts my scared soul.  
Pictures of us race past my empty mind  
and my heart cries tears of sorrow.  
But like a mask this curtain hides the tears  
As fear becomes washed from the soul and baptizes the flesh.  
Sand falls through glass bottles as life emerges in true form.

## Shadow People

(a bid for vampires on Halloween)

Creatures of the night!  
Fill with evil, dine on fright!  
Be damned, immortal in one bite!  
Roam free darkness until daylight!

Become an ancient devil; the genesis of fear!  
Smile a blood thirsty leer!  
Be a prophet of Hell, the damndest of seers!  
Be an enemy to your very mirror!

Come! We drink blood to satisfy our Soul!  
We save ourself from a graveyard hold,  
Our aging hearts, black as coal,  
Beating faster as the moon turns full.

A cross may keep us at bay  
Until they are safe in light of day;  
Without the night, we cannot stay  
As our power, our souls, will burn away.

Sonim

## Happy Birthday Dear

The phone rang tonight.  
It was the woman who's been my mother  
for the last forty-five years.

It's always nice to hear from her  
-- I guess  
-- I think  
-- I suppose...

Ahh! Do I have to come in NOW!  
But we're not done playing yet!

I don't wanna go to church!  
I wanna watch cartoons!

Oh, p-l-e-a-s-e! Can't I stay up a little longer!

As I tried to reason with my adulthood to her  
I just couldn't seem to squeeze my much effected modulation  
for the buzz in my ear...

I'm not a kid anymore you know!

It's MY life and you can't tell me what to do!

All my friends get to stay out pass' twelve!  
Why can't I!? IT'S NOT FAIR!

"I Know, Mom. I love you, too."

But  
I hesitated.

"It's always good hearing from you, Mom."

See, Mommy! I did it a-I-I by myself!

"Thanks for calling, Mom."

Fused to the phone  
my desperate hand thought  
that if it held on  
tight enough  
long enough  
time would freeze frame...

Bye-Bye, Mommy! I'll give Grammy a big hug for you!

"Bye, Mom. You take care now, okay."

And I hung up  
another tear.

Lee Dugas

## AS BOLD AS LUST

It happens in a cyclical process.  
Starting with nothing it begins to show.  
A gust of wind can get it going  
And anything keeps it in line.  
She moves slowly as the crowd watches her  
She walks with a shy outgoing chaos  
And captivates everybody and everything  
With nothing but a certain prowess.  
Euphoric looks, like fingernails slicing  
Through the skin of your back.  
Climactic pleasure always comes with  
The sensual pain that she brings.  
The final step always comes with hurt  
Not the hurt she gives,  
But rather the hurt she shows.  
Nothing is as inevitable as her.  
She is omnipotent over the world  
And omniscient over everything.  
Her name is death.

Aaron Berg

## Looking at Tomorrow

The wind in my hair  
blowing gently to and fro  
I see the sun shine above me  
in all its beauty  
All of nature seems to be alive and well  
serene as it is  
for all to witness  
These are the days  
in which we feel alive,  
for our spirits live forever  
onto the next life  
where we will all meet each other, again.

Tuhin Pal