

# TO DADDY

Where were you when I got my first trike and  
Grandpa Perk ran so hard to keep up with me  
as I turned the corner, he nearly keeled over?

Where were you when the sixth-grade class ran eagerly  
to their parents on graduation day  
and I hoped nobody would notice that  
grandma & grandpa were old?

Where were you when I was learning  
the difference between boyfriends & girlfriends  
and Russell Fish was  
teaching me how to french kiss?

Where were you when I decided to mark the “deceased” box  
on all questions concerning my father ‘cuz  
I was just plain tired of explaining  
“whereabouts unknown?”

Where were you when Elder Pollock  
ran his hands all ‘round my breasts  
and belly in his chicken coop  
and I didn’t tell a soul  
because he was a man of God and  
who would believe me?

Where were you when the man in the green car

Have You Seen  
Me  
Photographer  
Tom Moran



left me at a gas station on Sunset  
with blood running down my legs  
and I was too young to know that  
what he did had a name  
and too terrified to talk about it?

Where were you when the lady from the V.A. called  
to tell me Grandpa Perk wasn't coming home  
and I swore I would never let anyone  
know how much I loved him 'cuz  
then they would know how to hurt me?

Finally, 30 years passed  
and you were there  
when Auntie El said  
it was time to forgive and forget  
and that you thought you were doing the right thing  
and that you were sure I was okay  
and that men leave their children 'cuz they're  
just not made like women that way

and maybe it was time to stop wondering  
where you were.

**Susan Maroko**



DAddY  
POppA  
DAddY  
POppA

POppA POppA  
don't have a POppA  
nice word POppA

DAddY twisted and sick  
DAddY  
be sweet to DAddY

don't like DAddY  
the penises all stand erect  
in DAddY

like POppA  
the penises all hang down  
in POppA

hang down POppA  
like they should be  
around your little girl

DAddY'S little d's stand erect  
turgid and eager tools  
expecting release

POppA'S little p's hang down  
calm and flaccid  
no expectations

**Dawn Bailey**