

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
Tom Moran

Photographer



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 POppA
don't have a POppA
nice word POppA

DAddY DAddY twisted and sick
DAddY
POppA 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