

The Panophobe

The balled spider, quietly at rest in space
Unwinds to sting the careless walker's face.
The frightened snake, intent upon escape
Strikes once and quickly kills with flexing shape.
The pleasant breeze imparts to Spring its tone;
Become a draft, it chills the marrowy bone.
Tender eyes must be shaded from the light
Or blazing sun turns bright day to dark night.
The barking dog who roams the surly night
Snaps at the feeding hand with rabid bite.
The haughty cat, exclusive and unmatched
Festers the sensual hand where it has scratched.
(Both cat and dog are coated with dank fur;
They itch and tickle, hairy cat and cur).
Cold white season winter, fearfully high
Strikes chills with its smothering blankets high.
The wide yard's the place for nature's lover
But it fails to furnish ample cover.
The warming fire, pleasing to look upon
Pops out a cinder, quick the house is gone.
The raised window, unchecked by careful weight
Can quickly fall, can injure and castrate.
The drinking glass conceals a hidden germ
That left unscalded makes the mind infirm.
The flowing tap fills tub with easy motion;
Its source the deep, mild-deep, drowning ocean.
Grubby paws of nephew, friend, or uncle
If touched can cause a pimple or carbuncle.
X marks the spot, skull's a grinning warner
Toxic danger lurks in every corner.
The drugs that take each nagging pain away
Produce the stumped grandson some future day.

The pregnant lady by fear affrighted
Puts forth a child that's crooked and unsighted.
The dark closet houses the black bat's wing,
Inside the gloom the rows of bodies swing.

A cogent figure for this sense of dread?
Murphy's mordant law in a Murphy bed.

Eugene Hollahan

Waiting for the Groundhog

The foetus swells
in madam's belly.
Dark blood boils
in silence.
A child feeds at
the trough.
A cozy kitchen.
Fullness puffs
my heart,
frees me to dream.
Bee drones in my ear
beasts lock in love
the rooster spurs the hen
from above.

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