

afterwards

now I'm a tiny bird
cold and quivering in your hands.

now I'm a small boy
lost in a department store that's about to close.

seconds ago I was a lion in your bed
a storm blowing out your walls
jupiter crashing into venus
the climax of an opera
now I'm a little lost traveler
hiding in a land of giants
you could kill me with the flick of a finger
or a harsh word.

I need your protection in this moment
when I'm so open
so vulnerable
because this is when the phantoms come
this is when
the black wordless void where I was taken as a child
returns to claim me again
opening its dark mouth under my feet
pulling me down into its throat
sending me back in time to myself
showing me how small and alone I was
when it happened.

please don't abandon me now
not now
stay close
be with me
breathe with me
just give me a few minutes
and I'll be the man you know again.