

shadow world monsters

the child sits alone on a frozen lake
fireworks come out of his head
two days of ice and kleenex
the man and the woman are coming again.

the man and the woman live in the lake
under the ice
the boy put them there long ago
because they hurt him
now he watches over a hole in the ice
like a wary winter fisherman
fishing for nightmare memories
wondering where they are.

everything above the ice is frozen
everything below the ice is shadow
the child lives in the frozen world
sits alone on the ice and guards the hole
waiting to catch a glimpse of
the shadow world monsters.

who are they? he cannot remember
a man and a woman
someone close
someone very close
too close for memory
perhaps if he looks into the hole deeply enough
he will see their faces
perhaps they have no faces
perhaps if he gets too close
they will pull him in again.

he wants to touch them
he wants to love them
he wants to kill them.

he wants to tear them to pieces
rip out their hearts
if they even have hearts
he wants to cover himself with their blood and
dance in big crazy circles on the ice
he wants to toss their flesh and bones all around him
like broken trophies of
a life without childhood.

but they always fool him somehow
they sneak up on him while he sleeps

they come up through the hole in the ice
 and touch his private places while he dreams
they speak in voices he cannot understand
 and call him names that make him ashamed
then slip back through the hole into
the shadow world.

they touch him and leave him alone
 shivering with fear anticipation and shame
wanting to live
wanting to die
and wanting to know
 who did this to me?