

Homicide: The Game
Presents
Painseeker

"Terror Too Tranquil"
by Raychel Vanderhoff

I know no fear of night
anymore,
but the stillness still sits
inside my eyes,
projecting past injuries
as entertainment.

You're there,
I know,
though nowhere to be seen
like so many times later for me.

My body is snuggling
but struggling down deep
in downy half-sleep
to keep alert
stay awake,
quick breaths
are taken.

One ear exposed
ever vigilant
of violence
near to appear.

Eyes on the door
five feet across the floor
I know the distance is
two steps for Him.

Pause brings peace,
but never release.

I lived like this
for near twenty years,
nailed to my bed
covering my head
to blunt the first blow.

This fragment of time
still fills my mind
with terror too tranquil
to escape.

Raychel Vanderhoff
Approx. August 1997