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as child I stood

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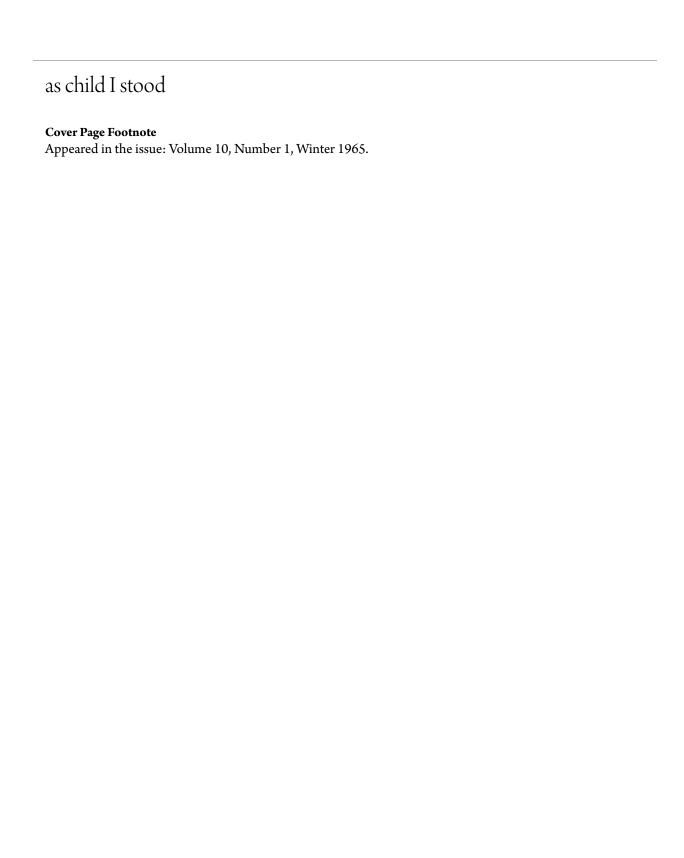


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as child I stood

as child I stood, chin-high to polished sill. Parlordark stood round me, her hands mothersoft on my shoulders.

bed-ready I stood,
secure in footed sleepers.
my silver breath piled slow
from the window corner:
I told me strange and many things
in lovely lettering
that only childhood could read.

and Streetlight stood, star-high to the windy Elm. white-jewel snow swirled round him and was as lovely in his light as his light was lovely because of her.

as child I stood, and told me with my breath "they must be loving"

RAY PAVELSKY