Child's Play

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CHILD'S PLAY
BY SELENA COCHRAN

ghostly silence crept in
   like high tide in spring, flooding, subduing.
spilling
over echoes of playful banter. one, two, buckle my shhh---
   until
dread and fear danced blissfully in the throats of ashen's audience
   until
panic clamored mercilessly in the womb's of deadened nurturers
mommy, is that gun real?
sleek ebony limbs
   glisten majestically in outstretched arms, taunting, preying.
vacillating
betwixt young and old. eeny, meeny, miny...moe!
   until
agony's joy erupts in thunderous applause
   until
ire and bliss entwine amidst waning cries for mercy
mommy, you've got ketchup all over your shirt.