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# Earthquake

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# Earthquake

by James Valvis

An explosion and then the floor  
shakes like jelly  
while your one-year-old daughter  
sits on the rocking chair  
across the house in her bedroom  
you weave with books falling  
one hand on your head  
an idiotic umbrella  
and then you're into the hallway  
pushing open the door  
the bedroom expanding, rolling  
your daughter riding the rocking chair  
like a bucking bull machine  
and it's only when you grab her  
that she starts to scream  
as if the real danger in the world  
is the fear in your eyes