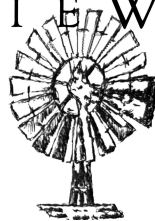


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## This is No Place for Moths or Men

Shari O'Brien

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# This is No Place for Moths or Men

by Shari O'Brien

Home from the oncologist, my husband lies,  
trying not to retch, knees to chest,  
upon the couch. I sit beside him, holding the puke pan,  
staring vacantly at the television screen.

Mortar fire has turned a swimming hole in Lebanon  
into a watery tomb for tots.  
A man who rends his hair  
shouts to the camera crew  
*but my little girl, she was no terrorist!*  
His eyes plead with me, half a world away.  
I want to ease his pain, but we are snared  
in the same plastic lantern, our scorched wings  
in unison flapping in frantic futile fury.

