

Wilderness House Literary Review 10/1

Ashlie Allen

"My father's best friend is the TV"

The TV plays
but there is no one
focusing on the static noise
or the cheerful looking reporter
I come down the stairs
to put the TV to sleep
but my father,
who was asleep in the chair
grabs my wrist and says, "Do not kill my only friend."

"The earth is a depressed man"

Burning trees and crying children
The sky frowns and dims its halo
for the earth below is a giant
depressed man

"The cob webs will return"

He spends a lot of time in the basement
Sometimes he cleans wooden surfaces
Sometimes the dirty windows bother him
There is no one upstairs waiting for him
He knows this, and feels like a gnat that has flown into wax
The other gnats aren't coming back for him