

# POEMS AND REFLECTIONS

By Tiffany Bucknam

*The author is currently a first year MSW student. She has previously worked in schools and early childhood development settings and has provided counseling services in residential treatment centers. She also is a consumer of mental health services.*

## But Suddenly

But suddenly you find yourself in the middle of a busy street  
blaring cars noisily whizzing by you  
while you teeter on the white line  
as though it could protect you from the encroaching danger.  
But the intruders still come, running,  
pounding down your door  
ringing on the telephone  
haranguing your every moment,  
haunting your sleep with angry sounds of demand, desire,  
and violation.  
All the while, responsibility  
weighs on your shoulders  
as though your jacket weren't leaden enough  
and no struggle had already beaten you down.  
Inside  
the glass cracks  
under all the pressure.  
You stand, in the black nothingness,  
exposed on a cliff of stunted desire  
Alone.  
Surrounded by the dark, you look down  
to see only your naked feet,  
watch, impotent, as your hands grope blindly,  
madly,  
desperately,  
for something that isn't there.  
So you stand there, on the edge,  
abandoned.  
Screaming.

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