

In the Middle of the Night

In the kitchen in the middle of the night
between two bedrooms
my son sleeps in one, my father in the other
while my concern moves between
his limp & his lunch
his repetitions & his why
his criticism & his acceptance
his love & his love.

These two men eighty years apart
& me in the middle
between answers still asking questions
wanting to be understood & getting told what to do
telling my son its time to go & being told I shouldn't by my father.

In the middle of the night in the kitchen
I peel an apple
watching 4 AM traffic 21 floors below Queens Boulevard
so far away from my home in California
& my birth in Eastern Europe
the end of his story
the beginning of his
worried awake by some haunting
or something I haven't done
being in the middle of everything
the night
the passage
the place between these two men.

I eat the apple bit by bit
without a sound the traffic slips
into the middle of summer
I hear him stir & him snore
& watch the morning amber press against the cobalt
finally feeling the sleep I need
ready for surrender
I leave the last of skin and seeds
on the table in the kitchen
between parent & child

Eve Brandstein

Eve Brandstein has been a major studio executive, a producer, a director, writer/creator, casting director. She is an educator and workshop facilitator, who has led writing and performance groups. Her poetry appears in various publications and she is one of the organizers of landmark reading series in L.A. Poetry In Motion, and publishers of THE HOLLYWOOD REVIEW an anthology of L.A. poets. She is also a journalist and author of THE ACTOR - A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. As a journalist her articles have appeared in national publications and web sites, where she has been a columnist as well as feature contributor. Eve is also a Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice and an accomplished artist whose work is shown at TAG Gallery at Bergamont Station.

