

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

# In the Middle of the Night



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.

