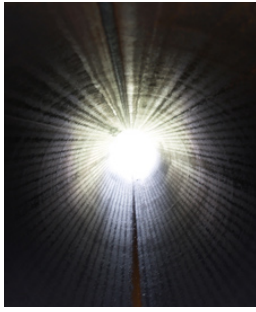


Left Behind

By Karen Frazier



Left behind we watch
As you drift away
Unable to comprehend
How you can smile
At a time like this

Your eyes are on the heavens
Ours are on the horizon
As we look forward and see
Emptiness in the space
That you now occupy

Your consciousness expands
outward
Into the universe
Our consciousness shifts inward
To probe a wound
Raw with your leaving

We wonder at your peace
In the presence of our pain
Unable to understand
Your smile of compassion
At our turmoil

Lost in our physical selves
We never take the time
To experience the process
Of another
Becoming Spirit

And when we do
We wrap ourselves in grief
Instead of bursting with the Joy
At the Grace of a loved One
Returning Home

What I've Left

By Chelle Thomas

Drifting along the darkened street
Frustrating and brooding
Autumn leaves drifting as I pass
Once they held wonder and awe

Mind weak from the ponderings
Too many to get a grasp
The years pass on,
But memories never fade

Unfamiliar faces pass,
Little flames in the wind
Until a new spirit rises
Sadness wraps it's steely grip

A new purpose born from grief
A delicate flower in a torrent of darkness

Stay the hand that raises in strife
Don't make the same mistakes others have

A tear stained face recognizes me
Heart torn, mind broken.
With wordless understanding
She drops the knife

Twin souls melded in sorrow
One in shame, the other regret.



I Sit in the Darkness

By Chad Wilson



In the darkness I sit,
cold, silent, alone.
The night is my protector,
the shadows my lover.

The moon, bright and full,
fills me with a longing.
Mischievous is in my heart,
and my soul laughs in its beautiful glow.

Free, so free,
my midnight requiem.
And I sit in the darkness,
and I know I am home.

vam•pir•ic

By Mark Thomas



I cut deep within
Still these wounds do not bleed
There is no release from this pain
There is no light in this abyss

Surrounded by this cold
Forgotten by all
Screams that echo
Tears that drown

Left for the dead
Shunned by the living
I will never be
for I never was