

## Inventions of Desperate Parents

*By Brian Bell 10-06-08*

1.

Delicate candlelight shadows feather their faces,  
Neatly arranged cuisine steams from fine china.  
Inward leaning, arms intertwine at the elbows as they sip  
Fruity wine from thin lipped, long-stem glasses,  
Hushed strings of a symphony,  
A field of attraction between them,  
Wet lips part, briefly stick one to the other.

Beside them, in a chair entirely encased in soundproof glass,  
A toddler's crocodile mouth unhinged, frozen in primal scream.  
These are the inventions of desperate parents.

2.

Through the window, cool blue phosphor faces in a darkened room,  
Dad cheers as his favorite sports team wins the championship,  
Mom weeps as the leading man professes his love,  
Both pleasantly pleased without disruption or discontent.  
No arguments, no stampedes, no demands for assistance.

Between them, three children strapped into a couch seat,  
An indispensable innovation that ensures their safety,  
Protecting loved ones from injury with a five point, padlockable harness,  
The seat mounts to virtually any home furnishings.  
And for extra protection features an optional soundproof shielded helmet.  
These are the inventions of desperate parents.

3.

The muted engine hums, dulcet sounds of jazz,  
Perhaps the deep timbre narration of an audio book,  
Dad chews on a licorice stick and drinks a cherry slush,  
Turning off of the highway onto a municipal road.  
The autumn leaves billow in the car's wind wake,  
Scratching, rustling against the road, the car's bottom,

A size-nine shoe bounces harmlessly off of the glass privacy partition,  
Behind him, a tantrum, paroxysms blunted by thick darkened glass,  
A gentle father exhausted by his child's unreasonable demands,  
Finds refuge from liquid anger in his own climate-controlled sanctuary  
These are the inventions of desperate parents.