

# Studio One

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## A Peace of Sorts

Russel Rowland

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## A Peace of Sorts

My granddaughter, bless her, is  
as I once was: confident, innocent  
in a world defined by being loved.

You could smell flowers all day  
and not get stung.

But not everything is good,  
and you can't explore without  
bumping your head somewhere.

You find musty curtained  
places where your innocence  
and confidence are unwelcome.

I anticipate her discovering  
a stuffed puppy can't protect her  
forever. She hugs it tight.

Still, there is a greater beauty  
beyond such stabs of loss,  
and unseen hands stretching her  
into a new, unfamiliar body.

A hard freedom, once you lose  
many things, perhaps Puppy.  
A peace of sorts, after you bury  
most of those who loved you.  
Then you watch the stars alone,  
saying in your chastened heart,  
Well, it had to be.

Russel Rowland