

## SHARDS

That cut at the coils  
of umbilical connection  
tiny slices of forgetfulness  
that shred the fibre of care  
sharp slivers of preoccupation  
that weaken the thread  
blade tip of confrontation  
whittles away at the bond  
between mother and daughter

No malice afore thought  
no conspiracy of separation  
normal life cycle  
no less cutting for that  
no machete is hovering  
no scalpel at hand  
just shards of apartness  
snipping at the strand.

Jim Tomkins  
Ontario, Canada