

## A Father Shouldn't Cry

He shouldn't take your hand  
on the red couch  
the night before you have to leave  
and as he talks  
his large hand shouldn't  
grasp your small hand  
with the bitten nails  
tighter and tighter  
until it hurts

and you turn to look at him  
his face clenched  
his eyes filled with tears

even though grown-up men  
don't cry  
and you've never seen  
a daddy cry before

because you have to leave him  
to go three thousand miles  
away, to a cold land  
and now you've made him cry  
and this is wrong

because everything is  
upside down

and your father  
who should be telling you  
that everything will be all right

is telling you with his tears  
that nothing will be all right  
ever again.

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