VISITATION ON NIGHT

PAM WARD

not the pit-bull on the front lawn
not the chain-link fence
not the bars on the back door
or the new address
not the dead-bolt she opened up anyway
See, when Waymond came
when Waymond aimed
his VW down the driveway
revving the porch till she cut on the lights
mad as hell
mad as shit
smacked his fist on the horn
he looked bad, like a crack-head
but couldn't care less
and the moon watched
like somebody waiting in line
Waymond lost his damn mind
pitched a bitch and turned into a bonifide fool
See, when Waymond came it was typhoon
it was hard shoes
and thunderbolts under each foot
stepping quick quick quick
drumbeats rolled out of each stride
not the parole board
not the punk boyfriend under the bed
not the bathrobes and slippers
who tipped out to peek
See, when Waymond came storming
with razor-blade lips
and mad heat in his shoe
talking loud
cussed her out
talking blizzards and downpours
and gang-fighting skys
cussed her three damn days straight
felt like eight days of rain
went home, changed came back
said all the same shit again.
See, when Waymond came
he brought mad clouds
and lightening-bolts right in the house.
and all hell broke
all high fives and party-time stopped
and he stood on two feet
screaming angry tornados
right into the hall
"Them is my kids!
My kids!
Call the law if you want!
ain't no judge alive
fit to keep me away.
Law can kiss my damn ass
when it comes to my son.
Thats my blood.
Thats my heart.
"Rico! Daddy loves you!"
there was gunmetal clouds
broken coke bottle rain
and the next thing I knew
the sun came back out
but ol' Waymond was gone
not the pit-bull
the chain-link
or the bars said a thing
"bye, bye daddy." was the last drop I heard.

Pam Ward is a graphic artist and Los Angeles native. Her work can be found in *Scream When You Burn, Best American Erotica, Grand Passion* and *Voices of Leimert Park*. She is the recipient of a *California Arts Council Writing Fellowship* and a *New Letters Award for Poetry.* Her first novel, *Want Some Get Some* was recently published by Kensington Press.