

## Leaving Without You

*Alex Parthun*

We lost you somewhere  
between that backyard playhouse  
and the creaking hinges  
of a rusted shed filled  
with cobwebbed toys.

You realized the world  
was bigger than our fenced in yard,  
so you closed the door behind you,  
and left us sitting on the fraying ends  
of carpeted stairs.

We waited until the lightbulbs  
dimmed, until the trees  
faded to gray even while our eyes  
still lingered on the door, so we ran,  
even though you would never know,  
and we'll be gone if you come back.