

# Neighborhood Watch

Sandra Kolankiewicz

Before dawn each morning I see the  
    obvious parts of his daily routine.  
First the bedroom light flips on. Within  
  
seconds the discreet square that is the bath  
    goes white, his house the tallest, standing  
beside where I sit on my small porch in  
  
the dark, sometimes with a blanket, no  
    longer needing to raise eyes to know when  
he moves from washing his face, brushing  
  
his teeth, into the walk-in closet  
    that used to be the nursery. For a  
moment all the lights go on at once,  
  
patch of lawn between us tiled with yellow  
    rectangles even as the sun begins  
to transition from the other side of  
  
the world. Then he sends the upper floor back  
    into what's left of night, the kitchen  
ablaze behind blinds. I consider it  
  
throughout the day, knowing all about  
    him but the particulars, no one to  
care after he drives off in his Jeep.

Sandra Kolankiewicz's work has appeared in *Gargoyle*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *Per Contra*, and *Pif*. Her books include *Turning Inside Out* (Black Lawrence Press), *The Way You Will Go* (Finishing Line), and a fully illustrated novel, *When I Fell* (Web-e-Books). She lives with her family in OH.