



Sean Lause

### The Fortunate Fall

My son and daughter are falling backwards  
onto their waiting beds, over and over,  
hands high swimming in the capable air,  
then tumbling through thresholds of dazzlement.

The world has come to offer its embrace,  
reversing all laws of time and gravity,  
their lovely trust indwelling the air  
like the night's first firefly's velvet grace.

In their fusion of breath and motion,  
their devotion, visible rhythms of joy,  
dropping through endless, imagined galaxies,  
their laughter rhymes with all the universe.

And yet this laughter blindly excludes me.  
When they invite me, I close my eyes, hold  
my breath—then with a small, stifled gasp,  
realize I cannot remember how to begin.

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Sean Lause's work has appeared in *Another Chicago Magazine*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Sanskrit*, *The Alaska Quarterly*, and elsewhere. He teaches courses in literature and the Holocaust, medical ethics, and the American short story at Rhodes State College in Ohio.

Image: Fireflies, from PetaPixel (website).