

# Old House



Kim Taylor © 2020

# Old House

I grew up in that old house  
and it grew up around me

I raised kids  
and watched the place grow empty

Now, so many years later  
as it becomes more empty still  
I notice the little things



# Shear Curtains

I loved those shear curtains  
when I put them up  
all the rage  
and they gave such a lovely light

I never noticed  
how much like bars  
they looked in the morning sunlight

It never felt like a prison before



# New Floor

I remember that floor  
quite fondly  
just after we laid it  
over the old linoleum  
he had to have me there

It was a lot less cold  
than I thought it would be



# Ceiling Corner

I looked at that corner  
when he fucked me  
when I was sick on the couch  
when I held a sick child

It was a comfort  
a worn, friendly face

It's just plaster  
but it feels like an old friend  
listening to the quiet whispers  
of my fears





# A Crack in the Universe

That's what he called it  
He loved science fiction

Me, I was just angry  
because no matter how many times  
I painted it over  
it would crack and peel

Something to do with the old pine boards  
on the wall  
maybe a knot

Maybe not



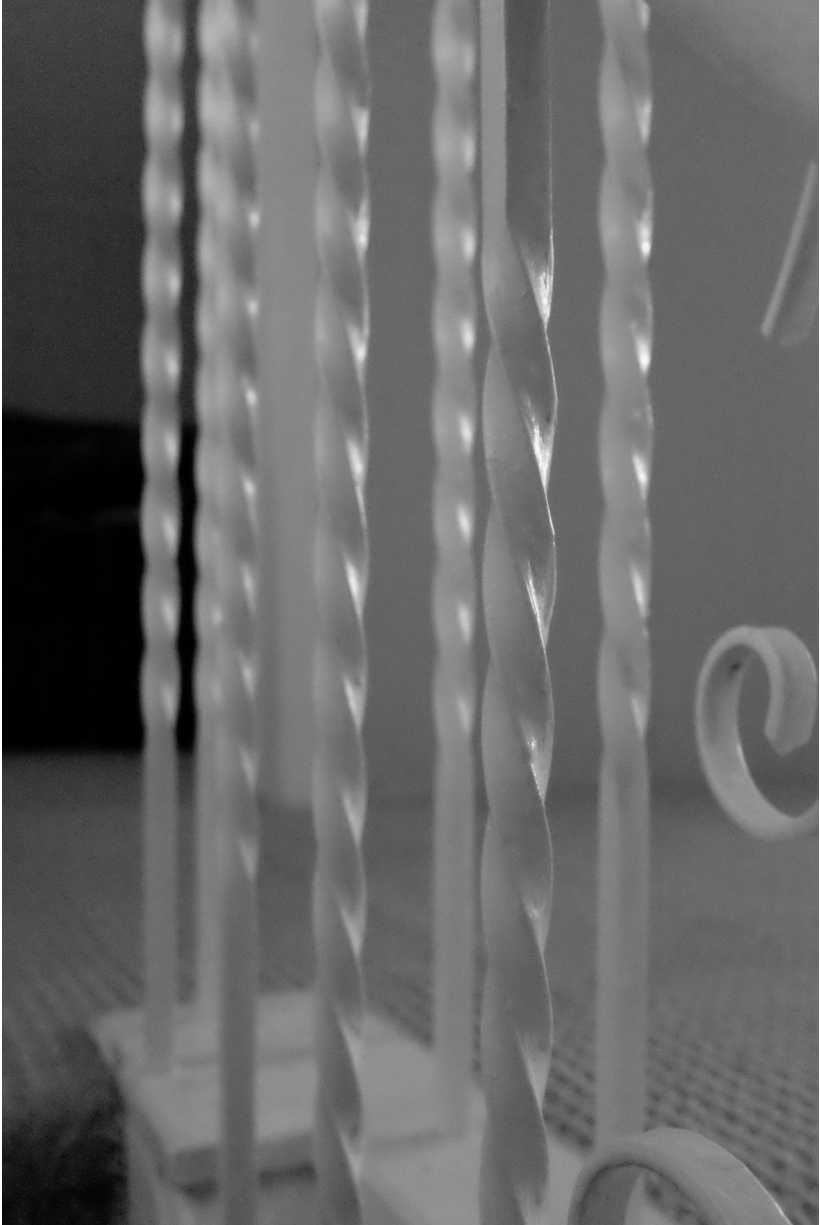
## **A Complicated Corner**

I so wanted a built in cupboard  
and cove lighting

He wanted a stairway  
not a ladder

He built me the cupboard  
bent a little at the stair  
and he got a false wall done

but he never installed the lights



# Top Floor

When we built the second floor  
it was deluxe  
an upstairs bedroom  
was ever so posh

Once in a while  
we didn't quite make it  
down the hall  
and he'd bend me over  
that elegant railing

I never minded the bruise



# Fourty Years

The coal furnace  
and holes in the floor  
became fuel oil  
and hot water piping

Those rads  
lasted forty years  
ticking and banging  
and hissing  
when the fall came  
and we had to bleed the air

This was a warm place  
to lean against  
as I waited  
for the kids  
to get out of the bathroom

It sits cold now  
the furnace is gas  
and forced air

My chest now tight  
my air forced too





# Alarm Cats

Fifteen cats  
we must have had  
over the years  
and every one  
would scratch at the door  
in the morning

Did they teach each other?



# So Proud

The day my boy  
had to tie back the lamp  
in his closet  
because he bumped it  
with his head

These moments  
are important

I never changed it  
after he was gone



# All Alone

When I was a child  
I used to watch the car lights  
move across my wall  
as they shone through my window

I used to wish  
they would take me away  
to fabulous lands  
and adventure

Now, alone once more  
I watch the lights  
and wait again

Wait for the day  
they will take me away



# Stupid cupboards

From the day he built them  
ugly things  
they never worked

They swing open  
and are in the way  
going on 50 years now

Ugly things  
I covered them in striped paper  
and tried to paint the handles

I suppose I could have them fixed

No, he made them





# Bathroom Window

For how many years  
how many years ago  
did I twitch the curtain aside  
to watch the kids play

They never thought  
I could see them  
around the side of the house

They built their forts  
they laughed  
and fought  
and cried

I can't see them any more



# Pride and Joy

This stairwell  
was our pride and joy  
Iron railings  
Lace curtains  
and a padded carpet

We made sure  
all the neighbors saw

The kids went down  
on their bums

Now sometimes  
I go down that way



# Somewhere Out There

Somewhere out there  
is his gravestone  
It's an angel

Thank god he wasn't

Perhaps tomorrow  
I will visit