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The girl on the threshold**Sunil Sharma**

A girl-child,
Tiny,
Unsure,
Afraid,
Standing
Near
The open safety- door
Of a neighbour's silent house,
In a suburban Mumbai high-rise,
Tentative,
Quiet,
Searching for a friend
With her round brown eyes,
In that dusty narrow marble
Corridor with locked doors,
Whipped by the whistling wind;
Her solitary
Childhood
As lonely as
A bright fire
Burning in a
Deserted
Street corner,
On this late
February evening
Hugging a locality
Where adults do not talk
But fight violently
Over car-parking rights.