

Divorce

my parents
divorced
when I was 14 years old

and I would sit in my room
and listen to them
argue
through the
paper thin walls

and hearing their
muffled voices
filled me with fear

a fear that
I had not known before

it wasn't
the kind of fear
you felt when watching a scary movie
or when you were alone in the dark

it was a mixture of
dread and anxiety

I could only
hear my father's muffled voice
but in the breaks of silence
I knew my mother was
saying something
jagged and hurtful

and I would put music on
somewhat drowning
out the yelling

and even know
as an adult

whenever my parents
are together

even
when oceans of time
have passed since
they were last
alone together

and they begin
to fight

I can hear
them from my desk

and the sound of my
father's muffled voice
still fills me with
that same
distant
fear