

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA

W E S T V I E W



Volume 31
Issue 2 *Spring/Summer*

Article 28

5-15-2015

Earthquake

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Recommended Citation

Valvis, James (2015) "Earthquake," *Westview*: Vol. 31 : Iss. 2 , Article 28.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol31/iss2/28>

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SWOSUTM

Earthquake

by James Valvis

An explosion and then the floor
shakes like jelly
while your one-year-old daughter
sits on the rocking chair
across the house in her bedroom
you weave with books falling
one hand on your head
an idiotic umbrella
and then you're into the hallway
pushing open the door
the bedroom expanding, rolling
your daughter riding the rocking chair
like a bucking bull machine
and it's only when you grab her
that she starts to scream
as if the real danger in the world
is the fear in your eyes