

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 24

Number 1 *Warning! May Contain Explicit Content*

Article 52

Fall 12-1-2003

Innocence

Alison Balinski
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Recommended Citation

Balinski, Alison (2003) "Innocence," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 24 : No. 1 , Article 52.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol24/iss1/52>

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INNOCENCE

Alison Balinski

I danced and danced.
I giggled and giggled.
I sang and sang.
I twirled and twirled.

Nothing could go wrong.
I was always able to escape.
My imagination kept me going.
My dreams kept me happy.

All around me a war raged.
I cried silently.
But I was a child,
So nothing could touch me.

They screamed.
I played dolls.

They hit.
I wrote a play.

They drank.
I swam in the bathtub.

They cursed.
I drew castles with princesses.

Twenty-three years have gone by.
The war is still in full swing,
no ending can I see.
My dreams no longer work.
I have no choice but to run and hide.