



1-1-1993

## The Window

John Sterling Harris

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### Recommended Citation

Harris, John Sterling (1993) "The Window," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol33/iss1/11>

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## The Window

Behind the curtain  
Of the open window  
She stands quiet—  
Eyes averted, head bowed.

She turns to peek,  
Then snaps back  
At the sound of kicks  
And high neighs.

There were father's words,  
"It's not fit a girl watch."  
But more than his words,  
She fears forbidden things.

While mother lived,  
There were games  
In the front parlor  
At times like this.

Now at sixteen, she's  
Woman of this house,  
And likely soon,  
Woman of another.

She slams the sash against  
The neighs and thuds of kicks,  
But most of all, the shouts  
And men's coarse laughter.

—John Sterling Harris