
Lilith,
After the Settlement Conference

Naomi Zvirman

I heard you congratulating yourselves as you snapped your briefcases shut.
You are good negotiators,
but I am better.
I walked out of the conference room congratulating myself.

The thing is, I don't hate babies.
It's just that their vulnerability scares me—
I mean, look how hard you made it for me,
born fully formed.

So yes, I do. I do.
I break into nurseries like a thief and
I whisper strength into the ears of those tiny pink girls.
I unclench the stubborn fists of those newborn boys and
I walk out, leaving closed doors open.

So we cut our deal.
I promised you that I wouldn't hurt the babies,
but the question is
who's hurting whom?