

## Early Bird

By Christina Cruz

As the daybreak's rays invade  
the blinds of a drowsy household,  
it illuminates the nest of a newborn baby.

And a child perches on a stool  
barely peeking her nose  
over the railings of the crib to see  
her bubble blowing brother  
wide awake.

She leans over slowly  
pushing his mobile,  
noticing as he begins to  
flutter his arms in excitement.

Plucking the plush penguin  
from the corner of the cot she gently  
pecks his nose with the toy,  
making the corners of his mouth curve  
ever so slightly as it hovers over his face.

Suddenly her restraint releases  
causing the cuddly toy to collapse  
on the infant's forehead.

Immediately lifting the baby  
from the crib she props him  
on her lap, stroking his back  
before he can cry.

A high pitched squeal catches the  
her attention soon followed by  
chirps and cheeps of chuckling.

The sister coos in amazement.  
"You never laughed before."