



look for signs -
a child's grip on a doll
bruises along a lip
cigarette burns on skin

look out into the night, the air
smells of the upcoming sunrise
& the not-yet-formed dew

look for signs -
an empty bank account
blood-stained sheets
a child's swollen eyelids

look out into the stars, the few
glittering above you, trust
one of them will lead you
somewhere safe

when the question hovering
around an almost packed suitcase
& trembling fingers folding
your child's favorite shirt, isn't
when should you leave, but when
will it be too late?