

KEEP AWAY FROM FIRE

by MELANIE STENZEL

This is how the fire licks
the insides clean
with tongues so thin
tasting everything

This is how the burning feels
torching the soul
everything within reach
a perfect ten of destruction

This is how the coals run hot
to melt away
to breathe
the flesh
that's surrounding the core

And when the heat reaches the center
the body
the life will fight for survival
against inferno's arrival

It's not standing a chance
being surrounded by flames
then captured
fractured
falling apart

The ash on the floor
groundbreaking
the heart is still beating
at four times per second
too fast to sustain

Leaving a little flame
eating away
a meal of the flesh
surrounded by ash
a small heap on the ground

Don't mind me
just picking it up
the beating has stopped
heart's free for grabs

The burning still there
yet too small for any harm
I'm blowing it out
keeping the heart in my arms

A tag attached:
Handle with care
Fragile inside
Do not bend
Keep away from fire