

My daughter only three
cautions as I rush out the door
"Don't stop on the road, Mommy;
somebody will hurt you."

Are little girls born
with this fear of dark
unlit streets
and being caught alone?

Visions of the kingdom
crowd into my mind:
of a world without fear
and little girls
not old at three.

Jean Ward, from *Broken by You: Men's Role in Stopping Woman Abuse* by Morton Paterson
(Etobicoke, Ontario: The United Church Publishing House, 1995), p. xii.