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The Screamer

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The Abuse

NATALIE GREENE

What you ask of me is hard
 Unearth memories dormant in a quagmire of forgiveness
 But that's alright I don't mind
 God has endowed me with strength to face my giants
 They are grasshoppers now

You wanted to hear the gory details
 Will another potential victim be spared if secrets are revealed?
 The sleepless nights... tomorrow will I taste your dew?
 The worrying days... unborn babe will your footsteps be etched?
 Or will your fate be determined by one blow to my womb?

Oh battered body continually tossed against this brick wall
 Do you have the strength to rescue my sleeping tots
 Isolation, depression, and fear, why did you befriend me here?
 Intimate partner violence
 Preventable public health problem

The struggle is over
 My mourning turned into dancing
 Yet still I grieve for those left behind
 Hoping that their morning will dawn

The Screamer

ALEJANDRO MOLINA

In twilight—I live alone,
 Never ending, never seeing day or night
 All—life, and sky, and land, and seas—twisted
 My whole body—swagger—crawling like a snake
 My scream—peels you away