

**Bourne**  
**toWrite...**  
creative writing  
workshops

## Catching

by Fran Duffield

It's catching, the emptiness,  
the measured space between  
thick with fear, silent  
behind our carapaces,  
miming with our eyes  
dread things we can't say

It's catching, the avoidance  
folding in on yourself,  
a bat clinging to its cave,  
having lost all faith in echoes,  
trembling in a dark hibernation  
with no certain end

It's catching, the disappearing,  
waiting for your reflection  
to be rejected by mirrors,  
having joined the undead,  
not sure if your voice will be  
all that's left of you,  
like the shrivelled sybil  
cursed by a thousand-year life