



## Crime and Punishment

by Fran Duffield

Crime is common:

our brutal everyday tangles  
are a repeated breach of the peace

guilty of grievous, wounding  
assaults,  
with malice aforethought,  
intentionally, recklessly,  
taking futures without the owner's consent

You become  
a long term missing person,  
unlawfully at large,  
I, known, not wanted,  
endure my indeterminate sentence  
with no right of appeal

trying to be an appropriate adult,  
when you fail to appear,

having no fixed abode

if I show control and restraint,

it may be taken into consideration,

and I will only be bound over

to demonstrate acceptable behaviour

while you walk free

with an absolute discharge:

knowing of course

there will be no further action