

## Collect for a Family Friend Killed in a Sabbath Morning House Fire

*Tyler Chadwick*

O, preening angels, voyeurs  
of bright and burning things,

of underbuilding flare-ups and  
flaming caved-in tinder, whose

breathing—plumed, infernal,  
unforgiving—sweltered her last

daybreak with unholy invocation—  
Please, if mercy be, if prayers

hurled—frenzied—Godward in  
the heat of grieving

grace what's passed, please  
have taken her before she fell

from sleep, please, while  
fever-dreams beatified

her mind's cathedral, dousing it  
with overtone eager aching psalms,

best-known language of her flesh  
billowing one last time from her

congregation choir, their notes  
astray and breaking and, yet,

soaring beyond her organ, her awe,  
please, that her leaving might have been

more requiem than torment—  
For you are delirium and ecstasy,

the scald of endorphins  
praising rapture and release—

Amen

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TYLER CHADWICK {tawhiao@gmail.com}, an award-winning writer, editor, and teacher, received his PhD in English and the Teaching of English from Idaho State University. He teaches writing at Utah Valley University and has four books to his name: two anthologies, *Fire in the Pasture: 21st Century Mormon Poets* (Peculiar Pages, 2011) and *Dove Song: Heavenly Mother in Mormon Poetry* (Peculiar Pages, 2018); a collection of poetry and essays, *Field Notes on Language and Kinship* (Mormon Artists Group, 2013); and a poetry collection, *Litany with Wings* (By Common Consent Press, 2022). He lives in Ogden, Utah, with his wife, Jess, and their four daughters.