

**Night Shift with the Little Demon**  
**Samuel Strathman**

Every breath comes out a sigh  
as I rock the demon  
in its cobwebs.

Unsheltered, indignant,  
the spawn refuses to sleep.

Groveling beside the little beast  
encourages a tell-all.

“Ever hear of the baby  
that learned Satan’s  
ten favourite languages  
in one week?  
That one’s about me.”

Tell the monster to *shut it*  
and find yourself hallucinating  
about sour key cereal  
turning your insides black—  
deciduously sweet.

In the end, the best course  
of action is to lie down,  
and take it.

Let the demon stay up all night,  
as it binges Jerry Springer reruns.

In the morning, the baby  
will sit by the window  
as students arrive at the school  
across the street.

He’ll frown at a select few,  
and in that frown a spell will commence,  
stunt the children’s growth  
for a year.

The parents will be concerned,  
but happy to spend less money  
on new clothes.

The youngsters will sit by,  
wondering what they did  
to be so far behind their classmates.

Terror is limitless.

Samuel Strathman is a Jewish poet, author, educator, and editor at *Cypress: A Poetry Journal*. Some of his poems have appeared in *Ice Floe Press*, *Feed Magazine*, and *Mineral Lit Mag*. His first chapbook, "In Flocks of Three to Five" will be released later this year by Anstruther Press. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.