

Authors' Note [Sara Crosby]: This poem was created by the Spring 2017 class of ENGL 2291 ("America the Freakish"). It was intended as an homage to Emily Dickinson, who is known for her love of birds, hatred of cats, use of dashes, and refusal to title her poems (which had to be numbered by later editors instead). We constructed this poem like a game of telephone crossed with mad libs. While Prof. Crosby typed, each student added a line and then handed it off to the next student who added a line and so on, until we had "2291."

I see it there—a Bird
 Flying—oh so gracefully
 But—why?
 Is there a Little Murderer?

Lurking on the ground
 Why can't you let it be—
 Up then down
 Little Murderer—leave

Do you hear that—
 O! so beautiful tweet
 Little Murderer—why do You climb
 Bird—fly on bird

And—
 I have no idea
 End this Game now—
 The wandering Eyes
 My life has become

Nothing but the Bird
 Be chased
 By the Little Murderer

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