

## *When the Bruises Fade*

When the bruises fade...

I won't have to explain  
why I always wear sunglasses,  
even when it's raining.

When the bruises fade...

I won't have to wear  
long sleeved shirts all the time,  
especially during summer.

When the bruises fade...

I won't have to make up  
lies about walking into doors  
and falling down the stairs.

When the bruises fade...

I won't have to think  
about the abuse every day  
and how he might kill me.

When the bruises fade...

I won't have to pretend  
that he isn't a monster  
and that I still love him.

When the bruises fade....

...but the bruises never fade.

*Tabitha Albright*