The hardest thing to bend, is the truth Because the moment it's bent, it's broken But beyond those walls lies a place in between Where ruckus runs rampant with rules unspoken Green envy curdles putrid, Pandora's box is opened A grotesquely beautiful place I regret to have seen This is the place where gossip grows

On unsteady legs wings are spread A queen selects her pawn, and the game begins Teeth are bared and first blood is drawn But first, a taste or a well-placed slip Before venom drips from lip after lip This is the place where gossip grows

High above on her ethereal plane

The messenger unfurls a convoluted skein

Unknowing or omniscient, each thread is twisted

Until only scraps of the garment remain

But as clever as a fox and quick as a rabbit

Gossip seizes the opportunity to wreak chaos and havoc

Unruly and turbulent, addictive and elating

This is the place where gossip grows

A whisper here and a flutter there

People whirl through the halls like maple tree twisters

Planting seeds of scandal into gasping embers

Sparks fly with ears set ablaze

A drought-plagued forest greets a trigger-happy lighter

This is the place where gossip grows

As the parasite leaches off its tainted truth

And claws sink only deeper

The final whisps of morality slip beyond reach

The virus has reached its peak

A spider's web trapping anyone who dares critique

Altering all life it touches

This is the place where gossip grows

It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt

Realization hits hard as a semi-truck

Pouncing on the opportunity to make a lesser man pay

You're a caged lion coiled tight as a spring, yet unable to leap

The helplessness sinks bone-deep

Lungs calcify, throat constricted, feet turned to lead

This is the place where gossip grows

And so, the battle comes to a close

Wounded warriors dissipate into the waning night

Victors gleam radiant with a freshly won fight

Lions recalled; pieces reset

A blank slate -

Spare the Devil at your shoulder

Sowing the seeds for next year's harvest

This is the place where gossip grows