

suffocation  
jeff landgraf

we shared sweet kisses  
she made me laugh  
she opened my mind to view another world  
than the one i used to know  
and showed me her glory  
and allowed me to see the fragile girl behind the hard shell.  
i used the word love  
i asked her to breathe in love  
hoping we could be stronger with it than without  
but love to her is only a weakness  
a word hijacked by  
the selfish, the cruel, the needy,  
a word used in the battle  
for control.  
but i wasn't asking her to give herself away  
or for a vow  
i didn't want to steal her air  
or change her colors  
i want her to be free  
i want her to be herself  
unafraid to breathe deep.