

***The Bleed* by Kimberly Selegue**

I bleed into your ground.
You have no protection
from the hazardous love I give to you.

I give you the poison that is my
life force.
My intent was to save you from those
who threaten your children.
My influence drains you of the
goodness you give to your inhabitants.

You stay there, a lover willing to give anything.
I lie in you like a parasite, bleeding into you.
I grow, and so you will decay.

My radioactive life loves you,
grows in you, uncontained.
I leave you contaminated.
My radioactive life kills you.

Your veins, made of hydrogen,
oxygen bound together,
I use them, all for the purpose
of spreading my poison to those
who love you and reside in your heart.

As I spread my love through your veins,
your helpless children slowly sicken, ashen.
You cry out in a pain that no one can hear.
Screaming with the voices of the millions.
Withering away to useless rubble.

Your children weep and moan in agony
as their bodies slowly decay from
the inside out, and still I spread.
Never releasing my hold as I grow.

Your soil becomes useless dust,
inhospitable.
Yet still I reach deeper, farther, longer,
into your life source to choke you,
till you cannot produce.

My reach grows and I try with all

my chemical might to strangle you
slowly in my arms.
Covering you and your inhabitants
in my scent of death.

I will hold your offspring as they suffer,
struggling to survive in the might of
my control of life and death.
I will hold your offspring as they
choke, begging to fix the
mistake they made in creating me.

As you and your loved ones die,
I will laugh for I will survive.
They cannot kill me.

I will grow.
I will spread.
I will kill.
I will not die.

I am cessation.
I am destruction.
I am poison.
I will not die.

I am radioactive love.
I am radioactive disease.
I am radioactive doom.
I will not die.

Fear me humans and earth.
For when you struggle to live and fail,
I will grow and spread until
there is nothing left of you.