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Ghostbusting with Egon

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GHOSTBUSTING WITH EGON

Glen H. Brown

My son straps on his proton pack
over his Batman pajamas
and pumps imaginary charges
into air ghosts
in the corners of our every room.
He stacks sofa pillows
to build an Ecto-One car
then sets his ghost trap
on the piano bench,
backs up and summons,
"Peter, Winston, Ray,
I'm getting a reading."
I watch him zap
the make-believe apparitions
with the soft-spray
of shh-shh flushing sounds,
his left arm waving
to invisible ghostbusters
like himself, and I replay
scenes forgotten, myths
and imaginary heroes.
There was Zorro
slashing the mark of "Z"
on Elizabeth and Race streets,
Superman leaping staircases
in a single bound, and Davy Crockett
defending Santa Maria Addolorato
at the Alamo.

Now my son captures his last wraith
in the bathroom mirror,
a small version of himself
etched in memory.