

## to have and to hold

*Bee Fee*

*Slice through the skin like a sharpened knife against paper*

*Clutch the dampened couch cushions as pain grinds teeth*

*Suck air through a clenched jaw*

The pain sears and sizzles at the edge of my vision

Fragmented glimpses of you

*Blink*

*Tears drip from eyes*

I search for your eyes

You have none

*Stab at the body blindly as if you are simply a piece of flesh*

*An empty vessel tossed aside for the buzzards and vultures alike*

*Search for Humanity*

In this moment of despair, I plead for mercy

*Call their name*

*Please*

*Do not answer*

*Claw with nails, tear through tissue and muscle right down to the bone*

*Crack ribs*

*Pluck out their still-beating heart with talons*

A claw machine, your hand dangles and sways

Mocking

What you came for has been found – my heart was only ever yours: to have and  
to hold.