

Plate Tectonics / *Cindy Frenkel*

Plates shift, cause and effect—
friction wears against the final straw.
One grinds over the other; less is left.

Marriage dissolves and you reflect
what you sensed (unseen, there really was more).
Plates shift, cause and effect.

No widow's wardrobe yet utterly bereft,
sudden weight loss, you're numb to the core.
One grinds out from under the other; less is left.

You've a daughter to protect.
Gingerly walk: there is no floor!
Plates shift, cause and effect.

For a while you receive a monthly check,
pay the bills, cross out each chore.
One grinds over another. Less is left.

And now you start to live beyond the wreck,
home orderly and safer than before;
plates shifted, cause begat effect—
One ground over the other; less is left.