

## Only Serious Applicants Need Apply

In the club you never wanted to join  
is a job you didn't apply for, your qualifications, dubious.  
Requirements include multiple personality transformations:  
nurse, masseuse, psychotherapist, physical and occupational  
therapist, pharmacist, nutritionist, medical researcher,  
vice-president in charge of all paperwork, insurance nag,  
professional wish-you-knew-it-all-and-hate-that-you-don't.

Benefits include seeing:  
the neighbor coming home late, coyotes prowling  
your urban streets, the moon in all phases,  
hearing: the house creak-shift,  
the newspaper slam against your unlocked door,  
alley cats mating, a sound not unlike your child crying,  
which makes the hair on your arm rise,  
and for the fourth or fifth time you must check  
her room, her breathing, inhale  
the delicate sleep-smell of her  
because when you signed up  
for motherhood, fatherhood, you didn't think  
it included a future with a child  
who may not have one.