

*Stephen Ackerman*

---

## **Magic Lantern**

Night: I glide past the old house,  
it is a giant lamp  
of light, it is voltage,  
it is more like a lantern  
than like a house, but inside  
a woman holding a child  
whirls in a room  
in my haunted, her happy  
house. I want  
to go inside, but I can't.  
I want to go inside  
where I was safe.  
I want to go inside  
where I was punished.  
I know who belongs in every room  
and where the encyclopedia goes  
and the old Zenith radio  
and the rotary telephone  
and what time Dad gets home.

©Copyright 2007 Stephen Ackerman