

# Mercalli scale

Robin Dellabough

2020

For every child born craving and abandoned  
every child whose belly bulged with emptiness  
every child who cried alone in a bare white room  
every child wounded by a father, uncle, grandfather  
every child told to pick up guns against other children  
every child who worked below dank ground  
every child shaken, burned, bruised:  
for every child who has ever endured,  
may an infinite army of children march  
across bridges, invade cities, skulk in forests,  
steal into beds, cram rivers, swarm roads,  
the sound of small-footed multitudes a rageful roar  
growing louder and louder until one great unceasing howl  
cracks open this unspeakable earth to swallow  
those who ever hurt a single child.

Robin Dellabough is a poet, editor and writer. Her poems have appeared in numerous small press publications, and she has written, edited and contributed to more than sixty books. She lives in Irvington, N.Y.

# fifth Estate

Robin Dellabough  
Mercalli scale  
2020

<https://www.fifthestate.org/archive/406-spring-2020/mercalli-scale>  
Fifth Estate #406, Spring, 2020

**[fifthestate.anarchistlibraries.net](https://fifthestate.anarchistlibraries.net)**