

# it was just like in a movie, they said

*by David Ackley*

the one with Mel Gibson where  
he's hanging all chained up and he  
wraps his legs around the guy's neck  
and kills him just like that  
and somersaults free  
but the straps were tight and they  
had me pinned and the cloth  
over my face was wet  
and I was like  
drowning...

*take 2*

or that one  
the building shaking water  
rising around you can't kick the window out  
swimming up to the ceiling can't go higher  
just your poor little nose holes  
sticking out sucking last air  
then: hand grabs yours pulls you  
out into sunlight dripping like safe new-born

cut:

*that doesn't work: try this:*

the last sound a kind of helpless  
disconsolate banging

\* \* \*

*except we can't make it fit into the frame it  
wants to be more all- around i don't know  
like complete maybe like with surround-sound  
and that old vibrator thing on the seats like  
for The Tingler and some sort of smell-o-vision  
for the rotten stink... see?  
and maybe have the ceiling fall on them*

*like this ?*

*No?*

\* \* \*

*take 3*

the thud or thump of bodies  
which one was that  
mouth full of ashes  
all white from the dust or ash running  
and choking  
watching all this  
on the box thinking  
is that me ?

*take 4*

or the one with Dennis Quaid where  
the big blizzard comes  
and freezes everybody stiff  
except -- Dennis his son

his son's new girl friend  
and the president  
and me, watching

*take 5*

*should I turn up the heat?*

