## The Conversation Killer

by Judith A. Lawrence

He speaks thunderously loud, loud enough to drown out what I might try to say.

If I speak in a breathless rush it's only so I can complete a thought before it's caught midair, swallowed up in one gulp and spit out.

I stand corrected once more.

And still I try to speak, if for no other reason than to let the words fly free before they choke me.

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