

**The Poetry of Gary Charles Wilkens at [www.gcwilkens.com](http://www.gcwilkens.com)**

**Negative Prehension**

As I lie here listening  
to my neighbors make love,  
exposed to every burst  
of “ooh ah” and every  
grunt of “oh yeah,”

I can't help but think  
of the philosophy of Whitehead,  
who thought we could share  
each others' feelings, that  
everyone was part in everything,

and I wonder if I could  
know their rapturous little  
deaths, far off now behind  
walls just thick enough.

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