Pirates and Castles
By Austin Fox
(For Brooke)

We are more than pirates-
we are more than swashbucklers
kissing the deck lightly
to invade the monstrosity before us-

Sure we are afraid, the host of
antibodies, they are foreign, but only
to us, and sometimes we are only
swashbucklers engaged against our host,

However. Sometimes we are less pirates
and more a castled city. We are then only
archers digging a moat, and then archers
guarding that precious stone-

We are still afraid. But it is all familiar.
It is all the same bumps and bruises
with no expectation of any more, should
we cover ourselves sufficiently,

And yet how easy it is to be undone,
to be more than pirate, less than castle,
overtaken by a strong gale force, even
unconscious of it all the while.