

Panic

you only have to see the panic
when you lift a stone
and turn it over
to understand that insects are human too

this one was in bed with another one's wife
that one was using her sister's make-up
that one had his sister's dress on
this one had his hands in the till
that one had his feet on the desk
that one was lighting a cigarette
that one was telling tales about this one
that one was stealing from his mother's purse
those two were drawing pictures on the toilet wall
this one had his trousers down
that one was on her knees

see them run!
see them scatter!

not all of them though
there are exceptions
those two seem not to have noticed
this one is watching the others
enjoying their discomfiture

enough!

put the stone back
leave them alone
they are only human after all

Neil Rathmell