And now I walk through the sunshine, shoulders beaten red,
into the shade of a shadow not my own, a shadow whose
love I can never have.

-- Patrick Bizzaro

Manassas VA

KING

when she takes a nap
when I'm around
I get offended,
because when I'm around
the world's lucky, right?

KAREN

went to a movie
with Kevin,
a guy she's known for
ten years,
they probably
made out all over the place,
but when she asked
me if I was jealous
I said no.

CHARLIE

best friend
even though
in seventh grade I
hated him for making
a sanding block
that was perfect,
even the nail-holed
initials, C.C.

FAST THINGS

my red shorts and Pumas
dart over the vanishing trail,
brushing past brush,
and then a lizard,
a black stick running
like the devil
from devil's work.

825 BRAZIL

the weeds on either
side of the walk to
her door
were wet and quiet
when
she told me
after she kissed me
to be sure not to
step on the snails
on the way back.

KISS ME, BOB, SHE SAID

on the bus from
the ninth grade graduation
picnic where
Jason and Murdock
swiped her purse they
got embarrassed when
they found 32 cents
and some Tampax.