

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.