MAIL ORDER FREAK

Jason ordered a clock from a TV commercial
Took three months for delivery and it has taken him two years
to put the thing together
Its chimes won't chime
hands won't turn
bird won't cuckoo
and he can't sue a P.O. Box
This morning
Debbie left for good
wearing her drugstore watch
and Jason still doesn't know
what time it is

EMMAUS ON OLIVE STREET, 4/19/87

A siren blasts Sunday afternoon apart
one fire engine streaks past to a small fire in a vacant lot
then almost total quiet descends again peaceful and holy with the Resurrection
although a man in Hawaiian print shorts barbecues on his patio and never thinks what day it is
except he laid in extra packs of beer
now little girls in white dresses cross the apartment complex carrying baskets and pink stuffed rabbits with faces that resemble pug dogs
one girl tells another, I found thirty eggs in the Easter egg hunt
and the man remembers why he bought the beer
but cannot recall why he bought the lily
whose fragrance fills his apartment