

MEMORIAL DAY (1990)

— for Jo Jo

My niece and I sift through
boxes of my sister's clothes,
memories piling up in heaps.

Holding up a jean jacket
with rhinestones and studs
we remember how she looked,
comfort each other.

My brother-in-law assures me
Jo would want it this way.

I'm wearing my big sister's clothes,
getting compliments,
I can't wear her shoes.

— Lynne Walker

Toledo OH

A COKE AND A SMILE

I go in the corner store to get a Coke
I walk back to the freezer, pull out
an ice cold bottle, slick and wet.

thinking about bubbles fizzing on
my tongue. I turn to go to the pay
counter, and I see this poster with

a good looking guy, something like
me. He's got these Cokes and this
blond babe on his arm. You can tell

she wants more than a Coke, you can
tell by that look on her face. So I'm
thinking, that's what I'm going to get

me. I reach in, grab another ice cold
Coke, go up to pay, the guy taking
the money just smiles. He knows.