

LAWNMOWERS

i am from suburbia, a land where you wake every saturday morning to hear lawnmowers screeching in their work / our pastimes include riding buses home & counting how many houses in a row are built exactly the same / my brother comes home from the bus every day at 3:47 /we all have the same square yards / every 2 houses, someone owns a dog & you will hear him barking at 2 a.m. / every 4 houses, someone owns a cat & half of them are outdoor / there is a woman on every street who leaves food out for them / the police are bored / always bored / three of them come out to give traffic tickets & it is always the same 3 / sometimes you must wonder if they are the only cops in the whole town / we own a lawnmower / everyone owns a lawnmower / i learned very young how to mow a lawn / you mow on saturdays in cargo shorts & t-shirts / you do not wear flip-flops because uncle patrick was mowing the lawn in flip-flops once & hurt his feet / father mowed once in flip-flops & ran over a wasp's nest & couldn't walk for a week / sometimes you see men mowing with baseball caps on, but they are a rarity & not to be trusted /