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Heathen child find a god

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Cover Page Footnote

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Heathen child find a god

In love is every man a boy alone
 in a parked car taking candy from a stranger
 while everybody else is in the store
 retrieving pennies for ford foundation gum
 Robbing the poor box of incognito passion
 this sacrilegious child will rub
 police protected powder staining purple
 his arms and legs and face for one woman
 She will wash him with her oily tears
 and dry hair he will mark with reverence
 and open mouth his signature bound
 by the tip of her tongue to never call again
 himself one person and aspirined in the fever
 of enlightened pleasure the end of all endeavor
 he will train to learn that every joy
 will dike sorrow against his straining fear
 They will dent shelter in dark rooms
 with dead flashlights in newsy corners
 to tell each other of themselves
 and be no longer strangers but inmates
 in the unlocked tabernacle of one orange pulse
 raising their eyelids in rhymed communal awe
 prostrate at a gate that bars no road
 but opens to a sandy ocean stretching
 far beyond the horizon of reason
 He will run in eager time
 to the sound of his own heartbeat
 through the silver field of happened
 so that she will have to tell him that
 not until he hears their child
 may he grow a beard.

—THOMAS HUGHES