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Driving At Night With The Lights Off

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Cover Page Footnote

"Second Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Volume 13, Issue 1, 2011.

Driving at Night with the Lights Off

poem by
Graham Wilcox

Suburban houses,
more husk than home,
flicker by in drooping rows.

An alarm bleats in protest.
Something about my lack of seatbelt,
I assume.

Should pay it heed,
cease that incessant whining
but on second thought,
it doesn't sound that concerned:
more formality than life-saving alert.

Eighty miles-an-hour leaves me little time
to discern one moment from another
or even this thought from the next.

I should be screaming
or stomping on the brake,
I suppose.

Anything but laughing, really.