

HANSEL AND GRETEL PARK

Michael Coakley

Yes old man i remember
i remember
the three bears
i can taste their porridge
i can still smell it
as they walked out the door
leaving it to cool

Yes i can still see
the children
led into the forest
that wonderful fairytale forest
leaving bread crumbs
to mark their way
i can still see the birds
eating those crumbs
knowing that birds
only try to live
and mean no harm

I still see you carrying me
back and forth
not knowing it was better
than sleep

Yes old man i remember
the cold mornings
we ate eggs together
the cold dark winter mornings
before the milkman came
before the city awoke
a kitchen light
a kitchen radio

a kitchen stove
 quietly
 not to wake someone
 knowing any upstairs shuffle
 would kill the day

Yes i remember the hidden knowledge
 in the indian folds of your face
 in your trombone
 in your suit pocket
 beneath your bed
 and in your closet

please just one more game
 before i go to bed
 no its not the game i love
 nor the bed i hate
 its just something to remember
 together
 some day

Yes old man I still remember

NON-DISTANCE

Michael Coakley

You're better than thermal underwear,
 When it comes to keeping me warm,
 And much superior to jogging,
 For keeping me in form.
 You're ahead of Marshall Mac-whats-his-name,
 For keeping my mind in motion;
 And just when I feel empty and dead,
 You're suddenly my every emotion.

Ah yes, you've made me the fittest,
 And the fittest they say survive;
 Then air is not the only thing
 That is keeping me alive.