

## **John Vanderslice** **"June July"**

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june july I went home to live with my mom  
at night I sat out to watch cicadas on the lawn  
june july, confusion tennessee  
here sherman's army leveled troops in 1863

now those battlefields are marked and paragraphed  
and maintained by national park service trust

at night I walked through those fields  
looking for proof of death, echoes of wounded soldier  
appeals  
tonight the rain clouds are pressing down  
hovering low, warning me to go back home

I saw lightning flicker in the clouds

one and two thousand, better turn around

light was focused down on me  
white spike cracked and threw me to the ground

when I awoke the sun was streaming over the fields  
warming the ground soaked with summer rain

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