

## **John Vanderslice "Mansion"**

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At dawn I walked across my front lawn  
humming some bloodying, nordic song  
it was raked and cut and comforting  
to comfort I said so long  
i stole my girl from her backyard

we jumped on a train  
(anacostia, va)  
to greyhound across the united states

we set off in hope of changing our lives  
but settled instead on holiday inn, riverside

i woke up in the morning all alone  
I walked down to the lobby and found her on the phone  
"david" she said "I miss you I'm coming home"  
I pulled her by the arm, she grabbed me by the throat

i went to the room and threw all her things  
off the 17th floor balcony and set out...

we set off in hope of changing our lives  
but settled instead on holiday inn, riverside

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