

## Mountain Goats, The "Pale Green Things"

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got up before dawn  
went down to the racetrack.  
riding with the windows down  
shortly after your first heart attack.  
you parked behind the paddock,  
cracking asphalt underfoot,  
coming up through the cracks

pale green things  
pale green things

we watched the horses run their workouts.  
you held your stopwatch in your left hand  
and a racing form beneath your arm,  
casting your gaze way out to no man's land.  
sometimes I'll meet you out there  
lonely and frightened.  
flicking my tongue out at the wet leaves

pale green things  
pale green things

my sister called at three a.m.  
just last december.  
she told me how you'd died at last, at last  
and that morning at the race track was one thing I  
remembered.  
I turned it over in my mind  
like a living chinese finger trap.  
seaweed and indiana sawgrass

pale green things  
pale green things

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