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Slow Drive through Town

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Slow Drive through Town

In memory of Joan Penrod-Brown

Wilda Morris

Headlights on, we follow down tree-lined
streets past trim cottages on green lawns
where the scent of warming earth rises;
past children dashing across the grass.
I hear a boy cry *You're it!* as another falls
laughing to the damp earth at his touch.

In the next block, a man kneels,
silver hair messed by spring breezes,
digging dirt, preparing to plant
a cherry tree from which he won't eat.
We turn onto the highway lined
with gas stations, shops, and restaurants
where people study lunch menus.

I watch a woman carry her basket
into the laundromat, see in my head
your dress of bright red, black buttons
rounder than stones, the useless tag saying
dry clean only. We drive through stone gates.
One early robin chirps a quiet welcome
amid flags and flowers, crosses and angels.

Adam Romanowicz. *Route 42 Aerial* (at right). Digital photograph

