

# Shards

*Zachary Riley*

I'm told it's just a workhorse  
but he can't hold a basic job  
and I'm asked for cash  
to fund his plans  
but the only plan  
ends up being the pipe

He claims he is in battle  
I don't know who he is battling  
if anyone at all  
but I see the war he is losing

He insists they have done something to his balls  
except he won't say who 'they' are  
and I don't know why 'they' would do anything  
to his balls

He ends up broke  
visits the pawn dealer to hock his guitar  
the surfboards and whatever else  
for a little more

He calls me when there is nothing left to scrape  
nobody left to lean on

He drops in a few times to say hello and use the shower  
wearing my towel in the kitchen

Sometimes we have a few beers  
and a paid meal  
if my pockets are deep enough

He roll starts his car to avoid the interlock  
sometimes I help push just to get rid of him

Sometimes when I'm not around he will sleep  
in the car in my front yard

Sometimes I'm in my room when he sleeps in the car  
but he doesn't have to know