

Inside Andy

I'll tell you what it is about fishing.
It's not about the fish; it's about the water.
It must be I've an island inside me
because when I'm on that lake, no one around
but my boy, both of us surrounded by water,
it doesn't matter if we catch anything or not.

The man with the badge and the uniform
isn't me. The fisherman isn't me. The friend
and the boyfriend isn't me. The nephew isn't me.
The good neighbor and good guy isn't me.
Who I am is a man who loves to sit in a row boat
with his son, in the middle of a clear lake, doing nothing.
Like I said, there must be an island inside me.

Otis Comes Clean

Sure I'm a drunk, and it's true that once
I fell off a wall sideways. But you haven't heard
the half of it. It's about my ties.

Remember? Even in black-and-white
they burst with color. I roamed
the state looking for them, short and wide
and striped like the rainbow.

When I couldn't find any, I drank.

It wasn't the missus or the glue factory
or not having friends. Get me a new tie,
short and wide and striped like the rainbow,
and I don't need a wife, a job, or friends.

This is what no one understands,
that it was always about my ties.

Gomer Comes Out of the Closet

They knew.

They all knew.

That's why they shipped me off
to the Marines. "It'll make a man of him,"
they whispered. But don't think I minded.
The only thing I missed was the purple tie
with the acorns on it. Not the gas station.
Not the choir. Not the dances. Not Andy and Barney.
(Well, I did miss Andy, a little, after a while...)

But I would have left anyway.

Wally's Service was not for me.

I wanted more.

Whether they liked it or not,

I was going to become the man I was.

The Mirror in Floyd's Barbershop Looks Back

After watching them look into me all those years,
I grew fond of them. And so I'd touch up their reflections.
When Barney looked at me, he saw Sinatra.
When Goober looked at me, he saw Cary Grant.
When Gomer looked at me, he saw Jim Nabors.
When Otis looked at me, he looked dapper.
When Mayor Pike looked at me, he stopped lisping.
When Mayor Stoner looked at me, he was the governor.
When Andy looked at me, he saw Opie.
When Opie looked at me, he saw his Paw.
The only one who didn't need touching up was Floyd.
As long as he could see himself, he was happy.