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Poets

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Poets

Michael Walter

I don't necessarily like poets who work a nine to five,
Who come home and write on the veranda with
Cheesecake for dessert.
I don't like poets who don't live vicariously through
Their poems of wide open America and a million
Different kinds of people.
I don't think I like poets who aren't old tea heads
themselves,
Who don't smoke or drink themselves into sad
Oblivion while writing.
I don't like poets who are boring old folks, the type you
Find at the supermarkets buying a three course
Dinner for their families.
I don't really like poets who write about their picket
fences
And three kids, and how wonderful their pet dog
Behaves for the neighbors.
I don't like poets who look like a neighbor, or a doctor, or
A secretary, or someone you wouldn't feel sorry for,
Offer money to on the sidewalk.
And I know I don't like poets who forget what poetry is,
Who insist on sad restrictions and unfortunate
Methods of detail.
Poet is a four letter word, and I swear all the time.