

# Lightning Bugs

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The difference between  
the right word and the  
almost-right word is  
the difference between  
lightning  
and the lightning bug.

-MARK TWAIN

The  
indention of  
the bladder, rattles, breaks  
the arms about; as the first two tried the  
door and then the motor stopped running,  
and they let themselves go, all on back of  
the verandah.



If this was to  
turn tight the ages of the children and  
the ages of paintings, then it would go quick and  
as wide as the trees went, going all above them, as  
the house traveled into accidents with planes  
above, flying—before they went and made it all  
into miniature. If for all that speeds the hands  
into a model of hands. To a smaller hammer.  
Locking the nails around the box to center and to  
hold still.



As  
though,  
and how, and for,  
the time the door came  
unopen, and ice had fallen  
out, unnoticed, and caused the  
first and then the second to fall  
from right where they started.



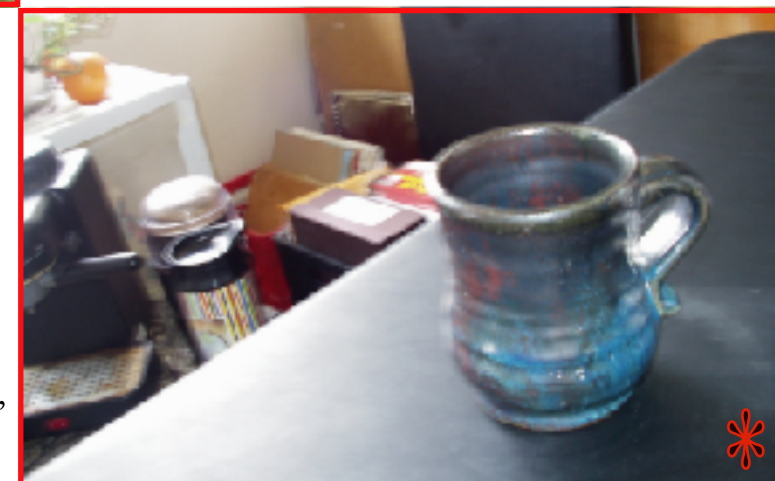
And  
went down  
to the bowling alley to  
look at their reflections in freshly  
oiled lanes. They slide up and down the  
lanes in their stocking feet until the  
wool unravels and their socks fall  
off.



When the ring  
fell off her finger, she claimed it  
meant their marriage was over. Open your  
eyes, she said, it's a sign. Instead, he opened  
everything else he could find: cans, bottles,  
boxes, bags, envelopes, drawers, closets,  
books, gates, zippers, diplomatic relations  
with Cuba, and, finally, his mind. We'll just  
have to get you larger fingers, he said.



The  
pome-  
granates have  
disappeared, leaving  
behind only the brief memory  
of their shadows, and a couple of ice  
cubes. Over in the corner, the  
shoelaces practice tying square knots,  
but no one notices.



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