

SECOND FIDDLE

"o my god," she said,
"my boyfriend's here!
quick! get in the closet!"

i grabbed my clothes
and opened the closet door ...

then i thought about it ...

"wait a minute," i told her,
"i'm your husband."

— James Valvis

Interlachen FL

EASTSIDE JAZZ

listening: las cuevas de mario
thinking
about the eastside
traffic
the nonstop movement
all the way
from the west
on this thursday morning
into downtown los angeles

listening: mambo de la pinta
wondering
about art pepper
walking and crawling
streets
that never disappeared
no new york, paris, san francisco
only los angeles
and sleep
in a '39 plymouth
off brooklyn avenue
with a sack of gold plated steel
by his side
and in the morning
looking, hoping, praying
for the brown, eastside jazz