

Fall 2002

Why I Can Never Seem to Pray

Michael Robins

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Robins, Michael (2002) "Why I Can Never Seem to Pray," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 58 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss58/15>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

WHY I CAN NEVER SEEM TO PRAY

Sunday morning the church opens its mouth
and I find stones. The mason bows to his knees,
eases a brick from the sidewalk. The clock circles
its hands and a dog wanders the busy street.

A black letter from the unlit marquee
falls where traffic shudders a saddled horse.
I blow out the names of friends for the winter,
the idle drifts between snow and blossom.

In cemeteries people whisper to the stones:
breath will certainly forget my syllables
when the sheets welcome the dark beetle,
and dawn withholds the words I was.