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## Pinsetter

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**Pinsetter**

he has filed his teeth down to fangs  
and when he chomps they clang  
he is the hole puncher  
plastic bowls near the front door  
where his mother makes him drink  
dollar bills marked in sequence  
he hangs his children from a hook  
and taunts them with cake  
he drags his briefcase to work  
taking the red-line commuter  
the bags are held to bosoms  
tight white knuckles on the subway  
he smiles at a little girl  
she doesn't see the spikes  
where his tongue should be  
her mother pulls her closer  
because she sees the hook in his pocket  
the girl is americas princess  
she will be on television  
sooner than they had thought  
at the dentist the girl cringes  
the cavities are appalling  
she leaps and retreats to the cloakroom  
and he swings from nowhere  
to break her jaw  
with a forearm to the chin  
so she will grow up pretty  
he saves his best hook for her  
and puts the silvery pins  
all in a row

-Jeremy Aufrance '95