

1968

## Lost Names

William Witherup

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## WILLIAM WITHERUP

## AFTER MY BREAKDOWN

After my breakdown  
 I tried Compōz;  
 I went back to Brylcream;  
 I joined the Dodge Rebellion  
 and the Pepsi Generation;  
 I flew the friendly skies of United;  
 I put a tiger in my tank;  
 I ate the breakfast of champions.

After my first relapse  
 I filled my cupboard with Wonderbread,  
 my icebox with the beer beer drinkers drink;  
 I packed into Marlboro country  
 sporting a fresh tattoo;  
 I stopped death and decay with Macleans;  
 I killed my body odors with Jade East;  
 I fought despair #8 with Excedrin  
 and pain #200 with Anacin  
 and anxiety #600 with Contac.

After my second relapse I cured myself  
 with Gillette stainless steel blades.

## WILLIAM WITHERUP

## LOST NAMES

The hospitals are filled  
 with those who have lost their names  
 who have gone travelling during sleep  
 and returned to find a strange face in the mirror.

This morning I woke up and discovered  
 my shoes were filled with blood  
 and that an ambulance was parked  
 beneath my window.

Frantically  
 I wrote out my name a thousand times.