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Abstract

There are more valuable things you can steal than a human heart, even for an emergency transplant...

Cover Page Footnote

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Good Things You Should Know

by Ryan Collins

There are more valuable things you can steal than a human heart, even for an emergency transplant. There are better things to shave than your face or a moose & better places for a mullet than on your head. There are safer things to borrow than your neighbor's child, because to them their child is perfect & you can only spoil that perfection. There are more relevant trophies to win than an Oscar or a Grammy. There are more important signs to follow than you find in the zodiac or along interstate highways. There are better places to find yourself than in a desert or in a goldfish bowl or in a goldfish bowl in the desert. There are easier languages

to learn than Braille or American Sign or Sanskrit. There are better things to eat when visiting Iowa than crab cakes, like pork shanks or grilled corn or Magic Mountains. There is more to the stars than shining, more satellites than you'd care to admit tracking your every move, more to the moon than landing or golf or the impact that created the Sea of Tranquility. There are marsupials other than those you see on advertisements for Australian vacations. There are better chances to take than to knowingly hitchhike with a killer & you understand this perfectly. You're just happy when you catch a ride.

Ryan Collins is the author of *A New American Field Guide & Song Book* (H_NGM_N Books, 2015), and several chapbooks. His poems have appeared in *Another Chicago Magazine*; *Diagram*; *Forklift, Ohio*; *Handsome*; *Ninth Letter*; *PEN Poetry Series*; *Verse Daily*; and elsewhere. He hosts the *SPECTRA Poetry Reading Series* in Rock Island, IL, where he lives.