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## Heart

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# Heart

by Bruce McCandless III

Eddie was an honest man  
as honest as men are  
He came up outta Longview  
but he didn't come up far  
They caught him in a dead man's truck,  
a gold watch on his wrist  
They asked him what he had to say  
Eddie told 'em this

Judge I done the best I could  
with what I was around  
I grew up with some beat up folks  
and they done beat me down  
I guess I could have stopped myself  
I never meant to start  
the ugliness gets in your hands  
and then gets in your heart

Lucy left her three-year-old  
the day she turned nineteen  
she tried to find herself a job  
so she could make it clean  
but paying bills ain't easy  
when you're smoking half you earn  
she's on the street in Montrose now  
you know she'll never learn

She says she done the best she could  
with what she was around  
She grew up with some beat-up folks  
and they done beat her down  
Maybe she could have stopped herself  
she never tried to start  
she shot that shit into her veins  
it pooled up in her heart



The Senator had won two terms  
was aiming for a third  
He was at a noontime meeting  
when a strange event occurred  
The FBI showed up in force  
Someone mentioned rape  
The Senator he stood his ground  
until they played the tape

His lawyers did the best they could  
with what they had around  
They went to see some high-class folks  
but those folks let him down  
Maybe he could have stopped himself  
he never thought to start  
the arrogance gets in your head  
and empties out your heart



*Photo by Tony Alexander*

