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Copperhead

God sent a copperhead rattler
to bite the man
who lives down the street
the man who never shaves anymore
and comes out with no pants on
and shows us his ugly grey wiener

the boogyman
my big sister said

My mother said: Shut up
he's just demented
Ain't no boogyman
ain't no Chula Vista
what they call the boogyman in Mexico
half-man, half-goat, all devil

God sent the snake
like He did in the Garden
but this time the snake was on His side
because He took pity on the old man
who'd lost his mind
and his manners

Old man's daughter looked out the kitchen window
saw the act of biting
saw the head draw back
then launch forward
saw the gleam of the fangs

through the ground fog
said: Oh! Oh!

Her daddy fell down
She ran out
Her husband followed

She said: Throw him in the car
Take him to hospital
get some anti-venom in him

Her husband packed his pipe
took some time about it
She jumped up and down
He lit it, took a puff
said: Why would we want to do that?
God sent that snake to put him out of his misery
You think he likes living as a total fool?

So the couple dragged him inside
laid him on the living room floor
watched him convulse
watched him die

waited a while
called 911