

Roger Craik

BERTHA

The squat black marble clock  
on the mantelpiece.  
The window facing north.

A slight frowstiness.  
The double bed, always made,  
with blankets she crocheted herself.

The chair she read at.  
The bedside table. A tumbler.  
A hardback romance from the library.  
Her 1950s shoes.

## GOVERNOR NORTHAM'S YEAR BOOK

No one says they're side by side.  
No one says they're drinking beer.  
I don't either. I'm afraid.

## MY FATHER, ON A LOCAL ART EXHIBITION

"Oh, you know, Roger, the usual  
environmental kind of thing,  
a forest fire, monkeys cowering  
in the tops of the trees.  
Christ, if it had been me,  
I'd have put a LION up there!"