

Sugar Tobey

## **It's a Problem**

My neighbor was  
84 years old maybe 5 feet tall  
like a piece of leather  
one summer he pulls me aside

listen I need a girl  
it won't take me long  
you know for the last time  
maybe you can help me

he survived the white army  
typhoid fever and the communists  
leaving him to die in a ditch  
sure he probably deserved a girl

I just didn't know any girls  
who deserved him  
it was a problem  
then the problem got solved

he was hit by a city bus  
while carrying his groceries home  
and died in the hospital  
three months later

they just don't make people  
that tough anymore  
not around here  
and it's a problem

## Have You Seen that Girl

I've seen this girl out of my window  
she's a beautiful young lady  
I watch her crossing the street  
dangerously swaying from side to side

she struggles with her crutches  
nearly toppling with each difficult step  
her long silky hair swinging  
from shoulder to shoulder

I've seen this girl on the street  
up close smiling and radiant  
waiting for the traffic light to change  
I try not to stare

she laughs with her friends  
her lovely face her lips  
a faint grimace as she lurches  
into motion again

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