

GUY CHAMBERS

TWO-PICKET-FENCE HOUSE

the old small green house
two pickets on the fence

open yard

breathing life

dirt backyard
world of its own
paradise
always filled neighbourhood kids
moulding ideas and dreams

at night time
it's kick the can
all the whole block
in play

hiding on roof tops
in garbage cans
in trees

hiding in gardens
in flower beds

when the rooster crows
early the next morning
the shit hits the fan
trumped flowers
missing vegetables

but many small smiling faces

climbing on the rooftop in the summer
watching the golden hawks
doing acrobats in the sky
flying with different colors
lingering behind them

at night time
watching the fireworks
from the exhibition ground
exploding high in the sky

adventure time
crawling down through the vent
in the bathroom floor
to get down
into the dark dugout basement
searching in the dirt
for buried treasure

the long stairway
to the upstairs
great for gliding down
on a chalkboard
sliding on the living-room floor
crashing into the coffee table

bathtime
pull out the big aluminum tub
put in the middle of the kitchen floor
heat up the water on the stove
time to take turns
for a bath

winter comes
the big backyard becomes
the biggest skating rink in the world
filled with the neighbours' kids
the Stanley Cup is on

after
snuggling around the heater
in the living room
and watch the black-and-white TV

Christmas time
the house always fully decorated
filled with homemade baking
eggnog and treats
specially the homemade chocolates
friends and family dropping in
for their traditional greetings

sleeping
middle of the night
hearing
the homemade root beer
exploding
in the dugout basement

Christmas Eve
snuggled
upstairs in one bedroom
waiting
for Santa Claus to come
grandma
sneaking downstairs
every half hour
to check if he had come
but only hearing mom
telling to get back to bed

the small green house

breathing with life

well lived in