

I AM FROM
Lauren G. McClanahan

I am from the “nice” part of town
Of new cars and big homes
And adults who were not usually around

I am from shopping malls and movie theaters
Of judging based on outward appearance
And knowing the guilt associated with having more

I am from the Midwest
Of casseroles and mayonnaise and corn on the cob
And basement parties that got a little out of hand

I am from 80s glam rock
Of Journey, Duran Duran and Loverboy
And U2 before they sold out

I am from my father, and he from his
Of a small, coal mining town of gypsies and dirty air
And very little room for error

I am from my mother, and she from hers
Of a time and place where “nigger” was okay to say
And every family “had” one or two

I am from my parents
Of two people who worked their way around each other
And rarely lavished praise on their only child

I am from all of this
Of my past, my present and my future
And I wouldn't change any of it (well, maybe some...)