

# Stingray

by Adam Strong

My teeth chew out on  
rubber sparkle handle from  
Sting ray bicycle  
Schwinn  
pants down  
rush of cars going by  
Old Cutler Road  
clutch of my stomach  
    my balls black and blue  
bruised  
by the bicycle chain  
    and when I was  
punched, in the face  
while riding red dream  
Schwinn Sting ray bicycle  
with banana seat  
the wall that came up  
too fast  
    instead of helping  
they came  
what happens when people  
are allowed to get away with  
Miami 1983  
bike chain  
covered in sparkle plastic  
berry blue flavor if I could taste it  
if it wasn't used to hit me down in the balls  
till they were black and blue,  
these people  
classmates  
"friends"  
after they were done,

after they left  
I reached out for the one thing I still loved  
in the world right then  
rubber sparkle handle  
Sting ray bicycle  
Schwinn.

