

# Inmate Words

*by* Bill Yarrow

in *White Heat*  
there's a character  
who reads lips

using a mirror to see  
the mouths of prisoners  
in other cells

that's how I feel  
when I talk  
with you

except I don't  
need a mirror  
to see your lips

except that I don't  
know the first thing  
about lip reading

except that I'm free  
not a prisoner  
in a cell

but that's how I feel  
when I try to capture  
the inmate words

that attempt  
their daytime  
escape

from the lithe  
penitentiary  
of your mouth

