

# Within You and Without You

*by* Gary Hardaway

## **After Rain**

The pavements glisten still  
with just-ended steady rain.  
Rivulets flow along  
gutters and into drains.

The grass burns a brighter  
green and rises, turgid.  
For a moment, the drought ends,  
here in early June, before  
the real fire sets in.

## **Moonlight, late October**

The not quite half moon  
smiles its not quite smile  
above the roof tops.  
The cloudless sky  
amplifies the incompleteness,  
clarifies the imperfections  
of the night's normalcy-  
the not quite we all expect  
but never hope for.  
The sky disappoints again  
our cosmic dreams  
of something precise and perfect.

## **Urban Pastoral**

The cottontail investigates its fur  
and takes in the early morning air  
in a glow of artificial light.

Twenty feet away,  
I make no sudden moves  
and savor the dark before dawn.

