Happiness

It comes on unexpectedly. And goes beyond, really, any early morning talk about it.

– Raymond Carver

On the last content day, I’ve ever had
collecting bottles out behind the pine tree yard
with Andrea. Five cents apiece at Maple Leaf grocery
and old Kenny Wong at the cash for as long as we were old.
Four coke bottles in our pockets, three in each hand
our fingers stuffed in the O
of the mouth piece
making them part of our hands
long glass clink fingers.
Sometimes a couple tucked under our arms
and top out our loot at $1.10.
The blue fish and licorice babies fresh today.
I walked all the way there looking down at my feet.
Fabric Mary-Jane’s from the dime store in the mall.

The day before he picked up the sofa and moved.
The day before I heard the words, “Do you want me to move out”
The day before I heard, Yes. Yes, I do.

I sat on the floor with one candy left
A marshmallow strawberry and I watched tv
while the whole of the room moved itself out of view.