



Image from Upstaged Austin

Vincent Carotenuto

Grind

Lost lad  
would-be actor  
construction job  
built big  
lakefront sight  
summer temp tyro  
passing through  
those new  
long free  
evening play  
workdays  
acting friendly  
care of tools  
game ball carrier  
then  
really tongue tripping  
on that bugger boss –  
termination.

Free nights  
and days  
self-employed  
full time  
man's man  
sleepovers  
no layoffs  
steady drinking partner  
tricky mercenary  
life thief  
wanted  
buddy luv snuff  
cell stuff –  
worked over.

New city  
job in sales  
beer joints  
blue grime collar  
manpower  
hard work  
rough customers  
heating and cooling  
stress annealing  
tool and die  
cutter-reamer  
lathe bite  
drill press  
ass smiths.

Then that day  
*dies illa*  
fortune wheeling  
terror dealing  
mill gods  
exceeding fine  
stolen car  
muscle engine  
like his daddy-o's  
poolside  
sexy model  
stud bud's  
speed-o-matic  
manly weapon ride.

Climactic final scene

raging hatred  
mad curtain  
really smashing  
automotive hit  
bridge abutment  
some last act  
real gone, man.

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Vincent Carotenuto's poetry has been taken into the poetry archives of Cleveland State University and the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland.