

SHANE MCCRAE

Community

I at the time I didn't know
A grown-up word for one
except I knew some dirty words
I was eleven sometimes waiting for the bus
The bus stop
was the sidewalk was up
on a little hill looked down on the street
Except it was too low to call a hill but there
isn't a special name for dirt that kind of low
And so I call it was a hill

And sometimes these two cops the same they
I think it was the same they
every Sunday they would
drive up under me expose themselves
All the police back then were white
even the bus drivers were white
I knew some

dirty words for one but seeing them they

didn't match the words

I couldn't didn't

never saw their faces saw

their uniforms their hats

the deepest blue I ever seen a

Black man get lost in blue like that a real dark one

I never saw their faces

But I could tell they sometimes they

were laughing from the way their chests shook

like their hearts had gotten loose

This thing it

wasn't in them with white girls

I can't believe it was

If it was white girls too they

how could they have been

the men they were in the community