



## The Willies

**Adam Falkner**

Button Poetry (Feb 4, 2020)

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“Finally, the poem I will not write.” With such an opener, Adam Falkner dares to let go of his debut collection. Most every image and sentiment to follow feels unburdening, like a rebirth. Falkner’s work has appeared on HBO, NBC, NPR, BET, and at the Grassroots Ball during the 2009 presidential inauguration.

*It's Tricky So Stay With Me: I crushed on the girls who dated the boys I crushed on which I understand seems inefficient but really it did the job. I loved Jeff or at least from my desk behind him in third period I like imagining my palm slapped around the buzzed cowlicks on his neck and Jeff asked Tasha to a dance which I knew to mean that Tasha and I should hook up it's not that complicated if you think about it. I loved Evan or at least the way pool water clung to his trunks and his thigh hairs when he climbed out of the chlorine and he got head from Michelle Cantor that summer behind the equipment shed so I gave her my virginity we thrashed around in the dead darkness of a linen closet our bones clacked against the wood floor until there wasn't much else to say.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (March / April 2020)

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