

Fall 2002

## A Picture of the Good Times

Tim Earley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

Earley, Tim (2002) "A Picture of the Good Times," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 58 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss58/4>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

A PICTURE OF THE GOOD TIMES

I love you you keep doing the same things.  
You broke some things. You broke some more things.  
I was tapping you on the shoulder, saying, *Break things.*  
I was turning cartwheels in front of you, yelling, *Break  
things!*  
The mailman keeps doing the same thing,  
but I don't love him.  
Twice a year maybe we try different things:  
I threaten to buy a snowmobile.  
I stand atop the television and announce my intentions:  
I must and I will and then everything will be O.K.  
You build a fire in April in the middle of the afternoon,  
smoke the sparrows from the chimney  
and warm the house until our ears sweat.  
You sweep spiders from the corners  
and I jump from the first floor window,  
grab the lawnmower, and cut crop circles in the yard.  
I burst through the door, pointing.  
*See, see. It's true, I say.*  
*Yes, yes. Mystery lives, you say,*  
beating spiders to death with a broom.  
Short of running from each other,  
arms high in the air, laughing,  
to opposite corners of the earth,  
we tape a picture of the good times  
on the refrigerator door.  
I say now I will love you.  
You say now we can keep doing the same things.