

David Armand

Truck

It was a tan Mazda B2200 that my dad bought
stripped down for under eight grand. He wrecked
it not long after he got it, but still drove
it anyway, getting pulled over more than once
and taken in for DWIs or otherwise
driving without a license.

This is what he kept inside of it:
a sawed-off shotgun under the bench seat,
a pack of Marlboro reds, a Bowie knife
in the glove compartment, cans of Budweiser,
a box of Luden's wild cherry cough drops,
handkerchiefs, folded-up maps, Bic lighters,
pencils, tools, a suspended driver's license.

When he gave the truck to me years later,
the seats were torn and I had to cover them
with a quilt I found in one of our closets.
I put in a cheap radio and some speakers
behind the seat, the wires draped over the dash
like cobwebs.

The truck had over 300,000 miles
on it and by the time I got rid of it, I'd turned
over the odometer so that it showed all zeros.

David Armand is Writer-in-Residence at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he also serves as associate editor for *Louisiana Literature*. In 2010, he won the George Garrett Fiction Prize for his first novel, *The Pugilist's Wife*, which was published by Texas Review Press. His second novel, *Harlow*, was published by Texas Review Press in 2013. In 2015, David's third novel, *The Gorge*, was published by Southeast Missouri State University Press, and his poetry chapbook, *The Deep Woods*, was published by Blue Horse Press. David's memoir, *My Mother's House*, was published in March 2016 by Texas Review Press.