

## **John Grey**

### **A Life In Theory**

A life can fit into a plastic bag,  
hang with the old men in the park.  
It can have a bench to lie down on  
and empty eyes with which to see.

A life can take shelter under trees,  
scour trash barrels for sustenance.

But then friends and family come for it,  
bring it back to where they say it belongs.  
A life is often how it imagines itself  
when it's not the life it's living.

**John Grey** is an Australian poet, US resident. Recently published in *Sheepshead Review*, *Studio One* and *Columbia Review* with work upcoming in *Louisiana Review*, *Poem* and *Spoon River Poetry Review*.