

## Wilderness House Literary Review 7/2

*Steven Gulvezan*

### **Lure of the Grassy Paddock**

Vibrion the stallion  
Never even placed  
Though he had the blood  
Of champions  
Flowing through his veins

“Too lazy to race!”  
His owner proclaimed,  
“Still he has the speed gene—  
I’ll put Vibrion  
Out to stud!”

Many were the fillies  
Who thrilled  
To Vibrion’s caress

While his progeny  
Numbering in the hundreds  
Kept the stable cradles  
Endlessly rocking

Feted and brushed  
Eating good food  
And copulating frequently  
Vibrion lived  
Well respected  
In his own quiet way

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If he'd owned a pipe  
He would have sucked it  
Contented  
While he imparted  
His wisdom  
To all the young stallions  
Champing at the bit  
For one brief sprint  
Of racetrack glory

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### The Birds Made it Through

I guess I've always been  
Excitable  
In a hushed sort of way  
Early birds beginning to sing  
Larkspur on the wing  
Big black crow pulling at a worm  
Outside my dawning window  
I'm glad the birds made it through  
Another night  
And are looking for love  
Sustenance  
Or simply tweeting I am  
To one more summer morning

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### Cast Off Your Chains, Workingmen

The fat cat sits in the window  
Smiling like he

Just swallowed the bird  
My dog makes a rush at him

Pulls the pull-leash out  
As far as it will go

And then is jolted back violently  
Choking as the choke chain

Chokes him