

## Wilderness House Literary Review 17/2

*Chad Parenteau*

### **America Has Everything to Lose**

*After Afghanistan*

Forever wars mean they're forever.  
From fist, to stone, to gun, to drone.  
Refuse the end and stand your ground.

Six feet under counts as standing ground.  
Battles pick up while calls for peace drone.  
Wouldn't you rather fight and live forever?

Son says Dad's forever is also his forever.  
Forever, all they had left, thrown to ground.  
Let the drone fly. It was Daddy's drone.

Forever droned to half-sleep, eye open, ear to ground.

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### Free Advice

Best things in life  
are gone.

Time takes you off,  
stays dressed.

Unexamined life  
has concealed weapons.

Brave men die same death  
one thousand times.

Just fake it until  
they take it.

Confess. It was fun  
while in last place.

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### Florida

Bully wave  
knocks glasses  
from head.

Attending  
this next  
last party

Beach blankets  
bingo raid  
free space.

Always know  
when someone  
tries to fit.

They are left  
on way home  
less than before.

Land opens  
from under,  
chews slowly.

Sun stakes  
last cool room,  
sears sincere.

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Everything  
blackened  
at start.

How long to  
convince self  
this is fine.