

*Earl McKenzie*

## A DISCOVERY OF MANGOES



He brought me notice of a powercut,  
left and returned  
with two bags of mangoes.

In fourteen years living there  
(it was my last summer)  
I had not seen  
mangoes on any tree.

As he loaded the fruit  
onto his motorcycle  
(he offered me none)  
he scolded me  
for not exploring my environment.  
He said there was a ripening tree  
on the adjoining property.

After contemplating  
the public nature  
of my employer's mangoes,  
I crossed the line  
and found branches sagging  
with the tree's accomplishments,  
and its abundance  
scattered on the grass.

I left rejoicing  
with a scandal-bag full,  
and lamenting  
so many summers  
of missed fruit