

# Denis Johnson

*by* Emily Sparkles

How strangely perfect it is  
To see this man memorialized  
An author, so I'll always cheer  
Though I haven't yet read his works  
A secret perhaps best kept  
The shame of an English major, the shame of a friend

How strangely perfect it is  
To read even the names paying homage  
NPR, The Atlantic  
Washington Post and more  
He won the National Book Award  
He was a finalist for the Pulitzer

But did you know he loved his son so much  
That he bought him a house down south  
So that his son  
And his son's wife  
And their beautiful children  
Could be close

And my small part of this story is that  
My friends know and love that son and family so much  
That I've grown to love that family so much  
That we even bought the house that his son left behind

And I know he was in these walls,  
If only through the love of his son  
So the least I can do for the family that I love  
And that author that they loved

Is write.

